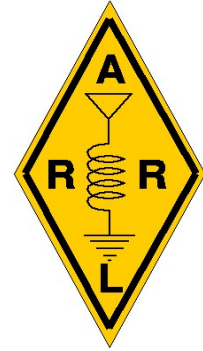


July-August-September 2018

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"



# The NODXA RAG



## Poolside Chat With KB8NW (written July 29, 2018)

Fellow DXers,

The NODXA's Field Day (FD) has now come and gone. The weather was not too bad. It rained Friday evening during setup which hampered the antenna setup. Saturday morning and early afternoon the weather was great but late afternoon and early evening it rained again. At least it wasn't a big down pour like two years ago. The club turnout was not too bad, but we could have used more phone operators. The CW station was pretty well covered this year. There was plenty of food and beverages. Tear down on Sunday went well, but we probably could have used a couple of more people. All in all it was a good FD. I want to thank all who attended and also thank Dave, WD8IOU, our Field Day Chairman, for organizing and keeping the FD event running smoothly. The early figures on scoring look good considering the WX and band conditions.



The NODXA summertime luncheon in July had a great turnout with 22 individuals showing up. The luncheon lasted a little over 2 1/2 hours. During the luncheon, Dan, W8CAR, gave a little talk and reminded everyone that the OHIO QSO Party (OQP) is on August 25-26th, noon EDT to midnight (1600Z-0400z). This is one of the most famous and well-participated QSO parties in the country, and he hopes everyone will join in on the fun, either from home or rover.

So, let's talk about DX. The KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition has come and gone, and I hope you worked it (if you needed it). The next big operation is the VP6D Ducie Island DXpedition between October 20th and November 3rd. We should have better conditions for this operation than KH1/KH7Z. This group (as with the KH1/KH7Z group) is also pushing the uses of the FT8 mode and is requesting that all users of the FT8 mode read the FT8 DXpedition Mode Users Manual at:

[https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT8\\_DXpedition\\_Mode.pdf](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT8_DXpedition_Mode.pdf)

They state, "It will be in everyone's best interest if callers use the most recent software version, correctly configure their equipment, call VP6D above 1,000 Hertz and in the correct sequence. If you are unsure of your configuration please seek assistance before calling."

The next club event will be manning the NODXA table at the Cleveland Hamfest on September 23rd. Any help at the table would be greatly appreciated.

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).

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

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.

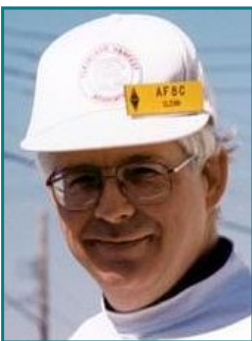
73 and Good DX, de Tedd KB8NW

P.S. Did you remember to renew? If you have not done it yet, it is time to renew your club membership. The club's fiscal year is from May to May. This helps NODXA with big expenditures (Dayton Hospitality purchases, Field Day, donations to DXpeditions...etc.)

## Minutes of the June 4th, 2018 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., with 17 members and guests present. After a round of introductions, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance was the next order of business.

Glenn, AF8C, read the minutes for the meeting for May 7, 2018. Then Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded a motion for the minutes to be approved as corrected, and the following vote of approval passed. Then Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Gary, N18Z, moved and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report as given and the motion passed on the vote.



Changes to the treasury included items sold at the Hamvention® and the new member dues from Eddie, KS4AA, a seasonal ranger at Put-in-Bay who was at the Hamvention®. Pete, N8TR, and Mary sold the FT3000, Tail Twister, 40m processor, an SP8 speaker, and MFJ keyer, all at the Hamvention®. Not sold yet is the AL82 linear and the Heathkit tuner. The AL82 amplifier is still at Tedd's

house. Also still available are the dual band 2m/70cm antenna and an MFJ tuner. The repeater was reported as being OK. The newsletter editor Dave, WD8IOU, has started the next newsletter.

### Old/New Business:

The Hamvention® became the first topic. Rain was on and off. Pete, N8TR, reported that crushed asphalt helped with the mud in certain places. DXEngineering hopes to use the new building that will be ready next year. Denny, WB8K, noted that vendors were not stocking so much at the Hamvention®. Rather they promoted "you order it". Brian, K3USC, noted that the new building will use part of the flea market area. Kenwood displayed a new TS890 and Yaesu touted a new FT101. ICOM has a new SDR-like radio.

Tedd reported that the hospitality suite did well. The club allocated \$500, with Bruce, N8DJX, donating \$200 for that. The expenditures totaled \$398 with \$110 left over. Jug donations amounted to about \$294. So \$404.08 was left over. Most of the folks from the aborted 3Y expedition were at the suite. Glenn, WODJ, talked to Tedd. Their left over funds status is still being reviewed.

Tedd needs a work party to collect equipment from Tim, ex-W8TAH. Tedd asked if people would be interested in an NODXA summer luncheon. The date could be July 12 or 19. One funding donation request letter was received, that for Z2 operating between October 26 to November 5. There will be two stations on Phone, two on CW, and one on RTTY. Z2 is rated 136 on ClubLob.

For Field Day, K3's with bandpass filters may be used. An FT2000 would be on 6m. Dave, WD8IOU, recommended the use of WRITELOG this year. KB8NW suggested and Bruce, N8DJX, seconded a purchase of WRITELOG and everyone voted for that. Goose will check cards at Field Day. Dennis, K8LBT, will be reimbursed for the cost of gasoline for the generator. There was a lot more discussion on equipment. John, K8YSE, reviewed the available bonus points we could earn.

Wrap-up:

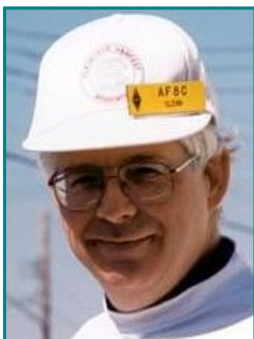
Bruce, N8DJX, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on July 2, 2018. The 50/50 raffle basket of \$36.00 was split with winner Glenn, AF8C who donated his half back to the club. The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the July 2nd, 2018 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:31 p.m., with 14 members and guests present. After a round of introductions, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance was the next order of business.

Glenn, AF8C, read the minutes for the meeting for June 4, 2018. Then Gary, NI8Z, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded a motion for the minutes to be approved as corrected, and the following vote of approval passed. Then Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Some recent bills from Field Day have been paid. Dennis, K8LBT, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report as given and the motion passed on the vote.



Tedd reported having heard that attendance at the Hamvention was about 28400. Following that was a discussion of how attendance was counted. Mary reported having sent a \$150.00 check to Mt. Augustine. Mary would like email addresses to be corrected so send her any information changes. Dues are due. The repeater is working fine. Dave, WD8IOU, had the newsletter out before Field

Day. He is now looking for photos of Field Day activities for the next edition.

Old/New Business:

Our Field Day visitor Dick, K8AB, thanked us for the Field Day food layout. There was plenty of food. On Friday there was plenty of rain during setup. The preliminary Field Day report is 1233 QSOs on CW, 1300 on SSB, 30+ on 6m, and 3 on satellite. The solar QSO bonus points were earned by Nick, W8XD. There were no digital QSOs. The preliminary total score is 9012. Thanks were expressed to Pete, N8TR, and Mary, N8DMM, for equipment setup; to Denny, WB8K, for satellite QSOs; the educational segment and traffic handling by Glenn, AF8C; to Tedd and Al, N8CX, for copying the Field Day bulletin; and to Tedd for the cooking.

Local government officials came from the area. A reporter was visiting and curious. A visitor from Mt. Augustine, who also was a ham, came out. Pete, N8TR, reported the ARRL as saying the band conditions were not good. George, K8KR reported he could not hear W8DXA nor CARS in Lakewood. For next year Dave, WD8IOU, suggested we rent a quiet Honda generator and not use the old noisy one. Also perhaps we could avoid erecting tents if a different site with a roofed pavilion could be found. Joe, N8QXC, mentioned that satellite modes do not work well in buildings.

Moving on, Tedd said the summer luncheon will be at the Strongsville Buffalo Wild Wings on July 19. Tedd reported on email from Jim, K8MR, that OM2VL won the NODXA plaque for last year's Ohio QSO Party. Tedd announced that KH1/KH7Z DXpedition is packing up early. KH1 is using the DXpedition mode of FT8, which requires using the new "fox and hound" mode. Tedd read from a list about some of the July and August DX activity. Z23MD is coming in October.

<<http://www.mdxc.org/z23md/>> Gary, NI8Z, announced that the 13 colonies group is on the air again during this July 4<sup>th</sup> week.

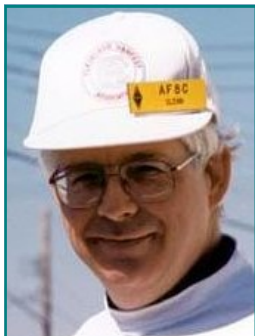
Wrap-up:

Denny, WB8K, 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 6, 2018. No 50/50 occurred tonight. The meeting closed at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary

## Minutes of the August 6th, 2018 NODXA Meeting

President Tedd, KB8NW, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., with 15 members and guests present. After a round of introductions, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance was the next order of business. Glenn, AF8C, read the minutes for the meeting for July 2, 2018. Then Treasurer Mary, N8DMM, reported the treasury balance was \$Ka-Ching! Then Ron, K8VJG, moved and Dennis, K8LBT seconded a motion for the treasurer's report to be approved as corrected, and the following vote of approval passed. Dues are due. Mary reported that the repeater is working fine. Dave, WD8IOU mailed out the final Field Day report to the ARRL.



A few QSL cards for Field Day have arrived at our mailbox. The NODXA July luncheon at Buffalo Wild Wings had 21 people in attendance. The restaurant said if there is more than 25 people expected at a DX luncheon the service will be converted to a buffet line. Tim, K3LR, could not be at this event. The next DX luncheon will occur after the CQ WW SSB contest which occurs on October 25 to 26. Tedd and John, K8YSE, went to the Portage Hamfest and sold \$180.00 worth of items with the revenue going to the club. The tuner was finally sold. The weather at that hamfest was perfect.

### Old/New Business:

On Thursday October 11 DX Engineering will have an Open Box sale from 8 a.m. until noon. On October 12 is the Cuyahoga Falls Tailgate. Any of the club's estate equipment that is not sold there will be disposed of at very low prices or junked. There was a short discussion of the Cleveland Hamfest where NODXA will want two tables.

Dave, WD8IOU, found a new large tent at Costco for \$199 plus tax for Field Day use. That tent is 18 feet long by 12 feet. It had good reviews. The ceiling is 6 foot 8 inches and there's a port for cables to go through. Dave invited discussion on whether that tent could be used with a dividing wall and eliminate the other tent. We could try extreme isolation sound cancelling headphones to prevent SSB from bothering CW. John, K8YSE, moved and Pete, N8TR, seconded to fund up to \$220.00 for the tent. The motion passed on the vote. There was concern about how to keep chair legs from punching through the floor of the tent. Mary knows of something used in wedding receptions for that purpose. Then we could eliminate the installation of all of the plywood flooring used in the past.

Dennis, K8LBT, reported that the Portage club won the ARRL Section newsletter contest. George, K8KR, saw that the ARRL is selling a frequency guidebook that contains every frequency assignment from 1650 kHz to 29.999 MHz including numbers stations. The problem of excessive frequency spurs in the Baofeng HTs was discussed. George discussed the 50 kW stations on the AM band on the West Coast that cannot be heard here on his Sony shortwave radios.

### Wrap-up:

Ron, K8VJG, moved and Brian, K3USC, seconded that the meeting be closed, and the motion was passed on the vote. The next meeting will occur on September 10, 2018. Nelson, K8DJC, was the winner of half of the raffle collection of \$28.00 and he kept his half. The meeting closed at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully, Glenn, AF8C, Secretary



## Field Day 2018 Report by David Autry, WD8IOU

Field Day 2018 started out with a wet and rainy setup late Friday afternoon. When I arrived the SSB tent was ready to go but the CW tent wasn't quite done. Then the rain started and somehow the floor of the CW tent got flooded! I will never forget the scene of Pete and Mary bailing out the tent using plastic cups! Pictures later in this newsletter. After that we decided to pack it up and continue setup in the morning.

Every went pretty smoothly after that, a very typical Field Day. The generator didn't break this year, no ones car got stuck in the mud, and it didn't get too hot. Tedd was flipping burgers and hot dogs as usual and there was a lot of food.



The biggest problem was the band conditions, they weren't very good. I spent a lot of time in the SSB tent and the signals were WEAK; it was a challenge to keep up a good rate.

We did have good support in the CW tent this year. Goose/W8AV, Glenn/AF8C, Rick/K8ZH, Nick/W8XD and others were able to keep the CW station operating nearly nonstop. Denny/WB8K, Bruce/N8DJX, Tedd/KB8NW, myself, and many others manned the SSB station but it seems like there were long periods of time where the SSB station was off the air. Hopefully we can do better next year.

Denny/WB8K was our designated satellite operator and he did a great job getting us those important points for the satellite contacts.

Our "Rookie of the year", at least for an NODXA Field Day, was club secretary Glenn/AF8C. Glenn operated the SSB station, copied and sent the traffic reports, AND taught the educational activity! Glenn gave a presentation on the fundamentals of SDR technology. Way to go Glenn!

Field Day is truly a group effort that requires help from many people in order to be successful. As Field Day Chairman I would like to thank Pete and Mary for their outstanding support in erecting the antennas, setting up the tents, and bringing nearly every tool known to man to the site just in case it was needed. I would like to thank Tedd/KB8NW (and XYL Linda) for buying/making the food and doing the cooking. I want to thank Denny/WB8K for bringing and setting up the pavilion and for his fine work on SSB and working the birds. I want to thank Bruce/N8DJX for bringing his Yaesu 1000MP for the SSB station and for donating the portable gas station that we use to fill up the generator. I also want to thank club Vice President Dennis/K8LBT for his work in delivering the HEAVY generator, the HEAVY spool of wire, and the wooden floors used in the tent. I would also like to thank Nick/W8XD for making the solar powered contacts. And, of course, I want to thank ALL the operators who manned the stations and EVERYBODY that assisted in setup and tear down.

I have a few ideas for next years Field Day that might make setup/takedown easier and that will be discussing in our club meetings.

Score wise, we did great but we were down a little from last year. I think the poor propagation had a lot to do with this. We had 7556 QSO points and 1550 bonus points for a total of **9106** which is down from last years 9944. Details are below.

Call Used: W8DXA ARRL/RAC Section: OH Class: 2A

Participants: 20 Club/Group Name: Northern Ohio DX Association

Power Source(s): Generator, Battery, Solar

Power Multiplier: 2X

**Bonus Points:**

Description	Points
100% Emergency power	200.
Media Publicity	100.
Public Location	100.
Information Booth	100.
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100.
W1AW Field Day Message	100.
Formal NTS messages handled - No. = 11	100.
Satellite QSO completed	100.
Natural power QSOs completed	100.
Site Visit by invited elected official	100.
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100.
Submitted via the Web	50.
Educational activity	100.
Social media	100
Safety officer	100
<b>Total Bonus Points</b>	<b>1550</b>

**Score Summary:**

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	1232	0	1314		
Total Points	2464	0	1314	3778	Claimed Score = 7556

**Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:**

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	269	100			1	150
40m	597	100			890	150
20m	288	100			374	150
15m	76	100				
10m		100				
6m	2	100			46	100
2m						
1.25						
Other						
Satellite					3	10
GOTA						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1232</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>1314</b>	









Are we having fun yet?





Pictures are courtesy of Dave/WB8IOU, Glenn/AF8C, Brian/K3USC, and the NODXA Facebook page.





Photo by JAIME ANTON

CUYAHOGA COUNTY — The Northern Ohio DX Association radio group gathered for the nationwide 24-hour field test June 23-24 to make contact with other ham radio and morse code operators across the country as a communication exercise in the event there were ever a mass emergency with no cellphone or internet service. Nick Wislocki, of North Royalton; Club President Tedd Mirgliotta, of Strongsville; Denny Jakubisin, of North Royalton; and John Papay, of North Royalton (far right) listen in as Dave Autry, of Strongsville, makes contact with another radio group in Long Island, New York.

Published in the North Royalton Post



## Yaesu FT-991A: First Impressions by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I recently acquired a Yaesu FT-991A and have been able to play with it over the past couple of days. Since I already own an ICOM IC-7300, it's inevitable that I should compare the two. They are alike in many ways, but quite different, too.

One of the obvious similarities is the size. They are both compact rigs, with the FT-991A being slightly smaller. They both cost about the same. Gigaparts is selling the FT-991A for \$1180, while the IC-7300 costs \$980.

The other similarity is that both radios have a color display with band scope. That's where the similarity ends, though. The IC-7300's display is larger and has a higher resolution than the FT-991A's display. That allows the IC-7300 to display a lot more information than the FT-991A, and thereby, making it much more usable.

The other big difference, for me, is that the IC-7300 offers touchscreen tuning. You can tap a signal on the IC-7300 band scope, and the radio tunes to that frequency. The FT-991A does not have that capability.

The FT-991A display is less capable in other ways, too. The narrowest bandwidth the FT-991A can display is 50 kHz, 25 kHz on either side of the center frequency. I've had the IC-7300's band scope down to 10 kHz bandwidth. This kind of resolution really lets you find open frequencies in a contest or a pileup.



I'm guessing that the IC-7300 can offer more resolution because it has a more powerful processor than the FT-991A. Another indication that this is the case is that the IC-7300 refreshes the band scope faster than the FT-991A. The upshot is that the IC-7300 is nicer to use.

The receivers seem comparable. [Sherwood Engineering](#) rates the IC-7300 receiver higher than the FT-991 (not the FT-991A), but I'm not sure that I'm good enough to tell the difference. The receiver sounded a little noisier to me, but that could have been that it just sounded different. The FT-991A's DSP filtering seemed just as effective as the IC-7300's filtering. When I set the narrow filter setting to 500



Hz and turned it on, it effectively eliminated nearby signals.

It may be because I've been an ICOM user for many years now, and have become used to how ICOM does things, but the IC-7300 seems easier to use in other ways, too. The IC-7300's tuning dial, for example, is larger than the tuning dial on the FT-991A. I think the larger tuning dial has a nicer feel.

In other ways, the IC-7300 seems easier to use than the FT-991A. For example, to automatically zero beat a CW signal on the FT-991A, you have to call up the menu system, page over to the appropriate page, then touch the screen. To do this on the IC-7300, all you have to do is hit the AUTO TUNE button.

The biggest difference between the two radios is that the FT-991A includes the 2 m and 70 cm bands, while the IC-7300 does not. That's a very attractive feature if you'd like to operate the satellites. Here's a video of KG6AJH working the AO-92 satellite using an FT-991A: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY43Tyr1uP4>

I think that the bottom line is that the IC-7300 is a better HF rig, while the big advantage of owning the FT-991A is its 2m and 70 cm coverage. I may hang on to the FT-991A and give satellite operation a try, but I'm not a big VHF/UHF guy.

If you have an FT-991A, and especially if you use it for satellite work, I'd love to hear what you have to say about the rig. What features work best for you? What am I missing in this admittedly quick review.

## Are You a True Blue DX'er? by Petr Ourednik, OK1RP (via eHam.net)

If watching a computer make contacts for you is not your idea of DX...

If you are decoding by human ears and brain power...

...you are a True Blue DXer!



LET US TELL YOU RIGHT AWAY: WE ARE NOT AGAINST ANYTHING, OR ANYBODY

Digital modes, particularly FT8, have literally taken Ham Radio by storm. We at True Blue DXers Club (TBDXC) applaud technical innovation, and we are glad that so many people have found a new avenue for their amateur radio passion. We wish digital operators every success and lots of enjoyment.

HOWEVER

We are somehow saddened that such explosion of activity has come to the detriment of traditional, person-to-person modes of communication. Experience tells us that, even with poor propagation and rising noise, both high-level, competitive DX activity and leisurely rag-chewing on CW and SSB are possible and highly enjoyable, even for stations with modest means. Yet, the CW and SSB sub-bands are often nearly deserted, whilst the FT8 "watering holes" literally explode with signals which would be perfectly copyable



by ear.

**WE RECLAIM THE PRIDE AND JOY OF DXing AS A DIFFICULT, CHALLENGING PURSUIT**

DXing means pushing the limits - one's own and the station's. DXing requires skills, knowledge, determination, patience, endurance, investment - it's a constant pursuit of excellence, one that, for some, has lasted a lifetime. It is that spirit that makes a DXer, and not the results he or she has achieved. The Old Timer waiting for the last DXCC country to complete the #1 Honor Roll and the newcomer struggling to push beyond 100 from a noisy city lot belong together - they are True Blue DXers.



**WE LOVE THE PLEASURE AND WARMTH OF PERSON-TO-PERSON COMMUNICATION**

There is more to DXing than competing in furious pileups, waiting for that elusive 6m opening or spending sleepless nights trying to dig a signal out of the noise on Top Band. Simply communicating with a fellow ham thousands of miles away remains, for most of us, an exquisite pleasure. True Blue DXers love the sound of DX - the auroral flutter on Polar paths, the slow fading over the oceans, the slap-back delay on multi-paths. They like to hear that there is a fellow ham behind the key or the microphone, in a faraway place.

**IF THESE SIMPLE IDEAS SPEAK TO YOU, YOU ARE A TRUE BLUE DXer**

Then, why not joining the Club? Apart from your personal commitment to pursuing and promoting more traditional forms of DX activity, there are no requirements. And, there are no membership fees. Belonging to the True Blue DXers Club is essentially a proud statement: this is what we do, this is what we are.

TBDXC link: <https://www.tbdxc.net/>

73 -- Petr Ourednik, OK1RP, TBDXC #12

## Can Morse Code Still Save You? by Gil Gruson, AK4YH (via eHam.net)

Jack Binns was awakened by a tremendous crashing sound, screaming metal and a shudder that ran through the ship. As the wireless operator, Binns knew immediately what to do. Waiting for the captains' order to send the call must have been the longest minutes of his life. Fortunately his long-wire antenna was still up and he had backup battery power. Jack started sending CQD on his spark-gap transmitter, ultimately saving fifteen hundred lives from his ship, the Republic. The Florida, the vessel that hit them in the fog did not sink, but nine hundred passengers were transferred to the Baltic. It was on January 23rd, 1909, and the first significant use of Morse code to save a great number of lives at sea. Can Morse code still save you today?



By 2000 Morse code was officially retired by most nations and in 2007 the FCC dropped the code requirement for amateur radio operators. Since then the amateur bands have been booming with code on the lower part of most Ham bands, somewhat defiantly in the face of its announced early demise.

The proliferation of cheap and small CW transceivers, often offered as kits, and activities like SOTA and other "On The Air" groups has sprinkled the RF landscape with dits and dahs. Kits like Hans Summer's QCX sold and are selling by the thousand. Nary a week goes by without hearing someone mentioning their CW kit by Steve Weber or Dave Benson. Why not? Morse code is very efficient and doesn't require a computer or tablet. Radios are ultra-light and sip current, often using less on transmit than most modern

rigs on receive, all the while outputting a comfortable five Watts. You can power them with eight AA cells or three 18650 cells, again very light. Amateur radio is no longer confined to the shack, or at least, portable operations are much easier today.

I recently watched a video about a 66-year-old who got lost on the Appalachian Trail. She tried texting her husband but was out of range. She wandered for almost a month, unable to contact anyone, and only a couple miles from the trail. Her body was found two years later. This perfectly illustrates how a seemingly safe hike on a marked path can end in tragedy when our usual mean of communication fails. We all know the story of Aron Ralston, who had to cut his own arm with a pocket knife after getting stuck in a Utah canyon. Whether he could have deployed an antenna is debatable, but his ordeal is also a perfect example of a nice day gone wrong.

How long before someone calls for help in Morse code on an amateur band? Is Morse code a viable option and are we listening? If you have stories, please share them here.

I'll be honest, I use a satellite two-way system at sea or while hiking where there is no cellular phone coverage. Although I have never pressed the SOS button, the position reporting works pretty well. I also carry a small CW radio as a backup. It fits in a little tea tin-can, including batteries, antenna, key and earphones, covers 20/30/40m. I would bet my life on it. I have no doubt any operator hearing the proverbial SOS pro-code would jump on it like a bear on honey. Five Watts into a full size antenna pretty much guarantees that someone will hear you somewhere. The recorded message looping



function of most small CW rigs is a great asset in that regard. Not everyone can spend a few hundred dollars for a satellite handheld plus a monthly subscription...

What would you do if you heard an SOS, aside from answering of course? Do you know how to send a "Pan Pan" (non life threatening emergency) in Morse?

I once asked the Reverse Beacon Network if their CW skimmers detected SOS calls. The answer was no. I really would like to see this implemented, just a few lines of code, to listen for SOS and XXX.

A small CW QRP radio should be part of every Ham's collection. It might just get you off the couch and operating outside, climbing hills even. It could be very useful when stranded somewhere without phone or Internet. It can also spark interest in people meeting you. We need fresh blood in this hobby, and it won't happen without some efforts to increase visibility. Most people who roam the countryside or even the world do not know that Amateur Radio is an option and that capable rigs are no bigger than a pack of cigarettes.

My opinion is that Morse code is still a viable means of calling for help, given the performance of new frequency agile tiny portable transceivers. Until we get new exotic battery chemistries and integrated tablet transceivers, CW will remain the mode of choice for hikers and adventurers, even if only by a few dedicated amateurs.

Gil, the Radio Prepper on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/c/radioprepper/videos>





Laci, OM2VL, holding the 2017 OHQP plaque sponsored by NODXA



The NODXA Crew at the Cleveland Hamfest (photo by Don, K8MFO)

## New Mode Helps Hams Look For Lovers by WBORUR (via [www.hamhijinks.com](http://www.hamhijinks.com))



**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](http://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](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 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, K8YSE, K3USC, K8MFO, OK1RP, KB6NU, AK4YH, OM2VL, eHam.net, and hamhijinks.com.