

## Fireside Chat With KB8NW

December 2011-January 2012

Fellow DXers,

It is great to see that the new year 2012 is starting off as possibly another great year for DXing. Operations by the C21HA, FWONAR, HKONA and VP6T have made January a very exciting



month for DXers. February looks just as exiting. Look for operations by several of the Caribbean Islands (6Y, FJ, FP, FS, J3, KG4, V2 and ZF.. to name a few), 600, 3B8, 3B9, 3C0, FK, H40, XU7 and ZK2. Remember, this is a great time to fill in those band countries we need because of the great propagation we have been experiencing. The sunspot numbers continue to increase (or are a lot higher than last year) and the bands 15, 12 and 10 meters are very productive for DXers. This is the fun time of the current solar cycle, so work them as you can. You know it is not going last.

"Ohio's First DXCC Field Checking Club"

One other topic I would like to talk about is how many of the major DXpeditions are making DXing more interesting. DXing has always been competitive,

but even more so now. Many of the major DXpeditions are now using online logs (usually ClubLog) during their operation. You not only can check to see if you are in the log, but it is also interesting to be able to watch who worked the operation and to follow the ranking of DXers world-wide (individuals, bands, modes and continents). Check it out sometime.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that Dayton HamVention is coming quickly. Have you ordered your tickets and made plans? It will be here

before you know it. I hope to see you at next NODXA meeting.

73 and Good DX de Tedd KB8NW

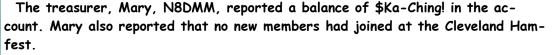
"The Mission of the Northern Ohio DX Association is to promote and support Amateur Radio and the DX Community around the world."

### Minutes of the October 3rd, 2011 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME at 7:30pm. The President, Tedd, KB8NW, was out of town. There were 20 members and 1 guest present. A round of introductions was held.

The minutes of the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were read. Jim, KE8G, moved, seconded by Ron,

K8VJG, that the minutes be approved as read. The motion passed.



Dwaine, K8ME, reported that 20 members had signed-in as visitors to the club table at the hamfest.

Dwaine further reported that the program for the next meeting would be a VP8ORK DXpedition video.

Pete, N8TR, reported that Rob, N8HHE, showed up at the hamfest and is a

guest at tonight's meeting. He wants to become a member again. Rob, an old-time member of NODXA, had moved back to Hungary, but now lives in North Olmsted and needs his tower painted. A discussion followed concerning the many different materials that can be used to paint and preserve towers.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter is out. He thanked everyone who had contributed to this issue of the newsletter.

John, K8YSE, reported that the annual Rt. 66 operation is over.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that a number of DX operations are up. Among these are the T32 and 4W, Timor-Lese operations. Pete, N8TR, reported that the T32 operation was very easy to work, even on 160m SSB. Many of the members present have worked them multiple bands and modes.

John, K8YSE, reported that the DXCC card checker, Keith, N8KOL, wants to come to the December meeting to check STOR cards for the members. They must be checked by December.

Old - New Business

Bruce, N8DJX, reported that his new tower arrived last week. It is a 120' Luso from Japan and purchased at Dayton this year. Bruce described all the logistics and time schedules that came into play just to get the tower to his home. The police had to block his street to get it unloaded from two big trucks. Bruce said that he will have pictures at the next meeting.

Dave, WD8IOU, reported that he had two free tickets to a hamfest at the Washington County Fairgrounds in PA.

Rick, K8ZH, commented that our website could use a fresh coat of paint. The site appears dated. Dave, WD8IOU, said that he would put a request in the next newsletter and on the reflector.

There was no 50-50 raffle this evening due to not having the materials.

Dave, WD8IOU, moved, seconded by Linda, N8LRS, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned by the Vice President, Dwaine, K8ME, at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, AI, N8CX, Secretary

## Minutes of the December 5th, 2011 NODXA Meeting

The meeting was opened by the President, Tedd, KB8NW at 7:30pm. There were 20 members and one guest present. A round of introductions was held.

The minutes of the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were read. After a callsign correction, the minutes



were approved. The treasurer, Mary, N8DMM, reported a balance of \$Ka-Ching! in the account. Tedd reported that the repeater is OK. Dave, WD8IOU, reported that the newsletter went out today. Tedd reported that N8AC Don Schmidt had become a SK. George, K8KR, reported that AB8K Ron Pretekin had also become a SK.

<u>Old-New Business</u>

Pete, N8TR, reported that conditions were very good for the CQWW DX-CW contest. He made many good contacts, including 40 zones on 20 meters. Al,

AC8AP, had 120 contacts working QRP.

Dwaine, K8ME, reminded everyone that the 10 meter contest would be on this weekend. Tedd commented that conditions looked good for the 10 meter contest.

Nick, W8XD, reported that he and Tedd, KB8NW, went to the DX lunch in Mansfield the day after Thanksgiving.

Ron, K8VJG, commented on new grounding rules for field generators. New in 2011 was the requirement that the outlet(s) at the generator be GFCI type and, do not ground the generator. More information is available at <u>http://forums.mikeholt.com/forumdisplay.php?f=63</u>. A discussion followed with numerous comments made on proper grounding of generators and towers and hazards to individuals.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported on the fine article in the West Park Radiops newsletter (for which AF8C, Glenn, is the editor) which was a recap of the Polyphaser Corp. article on the danger of dissimilar metals with copper wire grounding of galvanized towers.

Tedd, KB8NW, reported that he had received no letters requesting donations. He also commented that the bands were very good and that many DXpeditions would be coming up next month. Tedd also commented that recent information of LoTW were in the latest DX bulletin. John, K8YSE, commented that LOTW has to cross-check millions of QSO records against every new QSO entered from each new log. As AF8C, Glenn remarked, this is a mathematical growth called geometric and will likely to continue getting worse.

Al, AC8AP, reported that he wants to operate Curacao, PJ2T, as QRP in April. He will be there for the QRP-ARCI contest.

Dwaine, K8ME, reported that the Dayton bus trip is set for May 19<sup>th</sup> 2012.

John, K8YSE, reported that the satellite AO-51 had gone silent due to battery failure. He also reported that SO-50, AO-27 and VO-52 were still operational.

Bruce, N8DJX, reported that his new tower is up but, without antennas as yet. He commented about the lady tower climber who came from Japan to help with the installation. He will put a slide show together for an upcoming meeting.

Tedd reported that the next meeting will be Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012.

The 50-50 raffle was won by Glenn, AF8C. The winning amount was \$18. Door prizes of ARRL DXCC Lists were won by Karl, K8BCK and Ron, K8VJG.

The meeting was adjourned by the President, Tedd at 8:54 PM.

#### The History of Swan Electronics by Rich Lane, submitted by Carl, K8AV

It was sometime around 1988 during a vacation near San Diego California that I really got to know my uncle Herb Johnson. All I had known before that time was that Herb was a successful and generous businessman who lived in Cardiff by the Sea California and traveled to his home town of Ashtabula occasionally to visit his Mother, brothers, and sisters. We always looked forward to his visits since he would gift us with cash or trips to the ice cream shop. Once day in 1966 Uncle Herb pulled up in a genuine Shelby Cobra and allowed me to motor up and down Rt. 20 in hopes of seeing ANYONE who might recognize me!

My wife, two sons, and I met with Herb and his wife Mimi for dinner at the San Diego Yacht Club where led us to a glass case and showed us a trophy called The Americas Cup. Moments later he introduced us to his friend Dennis Conner, whom I was later told was at the helm for four victories. While I knew little of the America's Cup or any craft that you couldn't rent at Lake Shore Park I had heard of Conner so it was special to meet this celebrity. And yet, Herb's humility belied his vision and true genius which research would later reveal. Herb was actually a celebrity in his own right.

It all began around 1935 when this Harbor High student and resident with his family of a large home on the Hulbert Avenue hill built the first PA system for what would become Wenner Field. In 1937 Herb obtained an amateur radio license with the call letters W8QKI and a lifetime of contribution to science began.

Norma Vanderhoff reported that in 1938 Herb was seen walking up 5th Street carrying a curious suitcase with a microphone dangling from it. Three miles away the same scenario was repeated with one Jim Chekouras duplicating the process as both friends talked to each other. When asked by a passer-by what this strange contraption was called, Herb said it was a converted Majestic radio which he called his "Walkie-Talkie" for obvious reasons. Although not given credit for the label, the name would become commonplace during WWII. Few know that it all began in Ashtabula.

As his scientific mind would often work when not laboring for Morrison Electronic spending money dipping "skyscrapers" with Norman Rose at Isalys on Lake Ave. Herb would dabble on scratchpads his theories and ideas. On one particular day in 1937 Axel, Herb's brother questioned as to what he was working on. Herb explained that with the war under way, the US could gain great advantage by using radio waves to guide bombs to specific targets rather than in wasteful clusters as they were being dropped at that time. That was his first diagram of what we know today as "smart bombs."

To be sure, Herb was patriotic and drove his 1934 Plymouth to Erie where he worked on defense contracts for the Bliley Company. With Uncle Sam calling Herb joined the Army Air Force in 1944. Herb would lecture friends and family to "buy American" at a time when few even had heard of the term. Herb warned that foreign owned companies would become a threat to our economy. But as wars often stimulate, it was a time when factories were buzzing and the economy was on an upswing so few thought much of his prediction. Today we understand just what he meant in the 1940s. Herb himself would fall prey to foreign interference as I will note later.

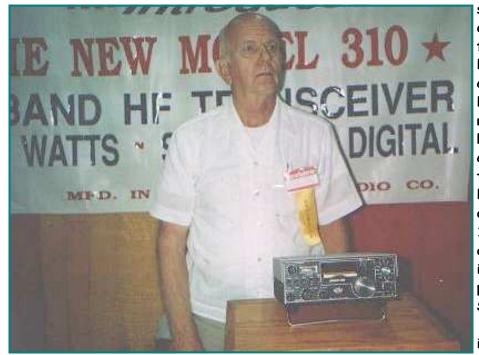
By 1953 Herb had bigger ideas. Working on ham radio patents under the name of Swan (His Father's name) Herb abruptly took his ideas to Benson Arizona and opened what would be the first of a series of factories producing affordable tube-type electronic radios which were able to be repaired by owners with average electronic ability. Before he left the Ashtabula area Herb Johnson composed another footnote in history when in 1957 he became the first documented amateur to bounce a radio signal off of the moon. While others laughed, Herb had in fact sent out and back: "One small bleep for man, but one big fore glimpse of the future for mankind."

I had wondered why he chose Arizona until I saw pictures of Herb with his close friend and fellow ham operator, Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater. Together, the two had been working on legislation al**low**ing for legal Mexican immigration and eventual citizenship, creating jobs other than agricultural for our

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neighbors to the south while building products to be sold by the USA. When asked if hiring Latinos was simply a cheap way to get labor, Herb sternly offered that the Mexicans and, especially the women outperformed, the many American employees he had hired. It was a matter of giving jobs to those most qualified regardless of race, sex, or nationality. Perhaps due to his Salvation Army upbringing, Herb took pride in watching the underprivileged provide for their needy families back home while at the same time working their way toward legal citizenship in the USA.

Herb became a multi-millionaire we believe but it is difficult to say what his net worth really was



since he had a habit of giving it all away both to good as well as foolish causes. It was not unlike him to stop his car along the curb and hand out money to the homeless. All of his employees reportedly were paid well and the bottom line was seldom discussed. It was the public's ability to afford his products which was his consummate goal. For personal family reasons during the 1970s he moved to California and once again set up shop, this time in Oceanside California where he produced and marketed both the Swan and Atlas brands.

I recall on another visit watching Herb fight for certain freedoms by arguing at City Council

for the right to have an antenna in his back yard to receive free radio signals. The city wanted all to pay for cable signals but Herb maintained that certain things should have free access. I remember him saying sarcastically that soon sunshine and air would come at a cost. He was right! They eventually did by taxing solar panels and creating electricity with wind power!

But the worldwide market was changing and Japanese companies were taking a bite out of the marketplace. Sony approached Herb and reportedly offered him a handsome sum to sell his patents, property, and rights to all business in the US. Herb stubbornly refused claiming that American companies should remain so in order to keep the economy strong (another prophetic bit of wisdom) and that foreign ownership would be unwise. Principled though it was, it became a fatal mistake.

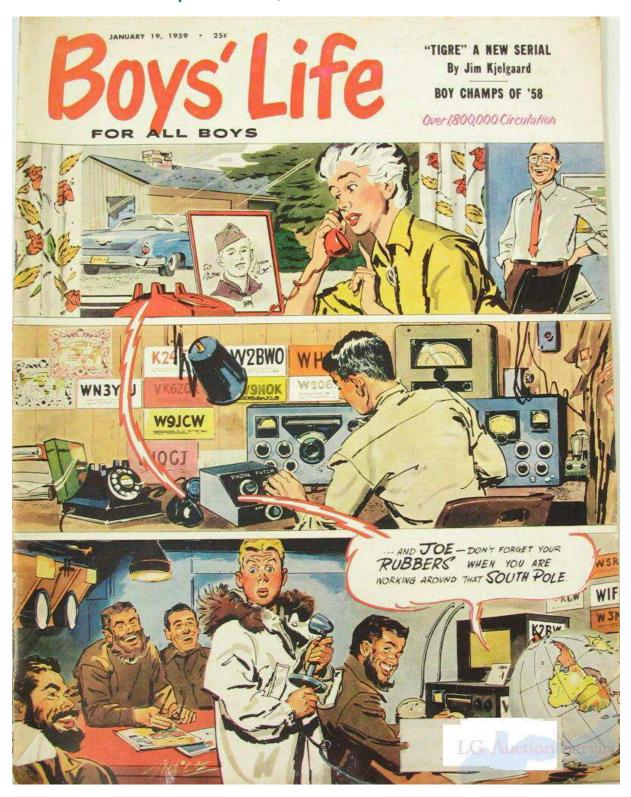
In response to rejection Sony proudly built a mega production operation of electronics across the street from Herb's Atlas plant and marketed their knock off transceivers at a loss to run Herb out of business. With pricing pressures and the advent of GPS, Uncle Herb eventually and sadly went broke. He developed new products for maritime and attempted to sell them from the trunk of his car in Colonel Sander's fashion but again with worldwide communication becoming satellite oriented all attempts to retool failed.

I recall crying in the early 1990s when Herb sent out his own SOS from the Bakersfield California area. He was out off money and gas and had a flat tire. Herb was indeed flat broke. From a phone booth he called my brother Dan, who lives in the area, for help. Dan was both happy to help this relative who many times for no reason had handed all of us cash and yet hurt that such a kind sole would come to such a state. The family back East was shocked at his apparent demise. Millionaires didn't go broke ... did they?

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Herb never recovered and at the end suffered from Alzheimer's. Perhaps it was God's way of lessening the pain for such a considerate sole who remained true to himself and never sold out. But Herb's legacy lives on. Ask any ham operator about the Swan line of electronics. They are still prized today for their simplicity and reparability. And so too lives on the memory of Herb Johnson of Ashtabula ... generous, foresighted, patriotic, principled, and not forgotten.

## Ham Radio and Boy's Life By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



The magazine cover on the previous page is from the January 1959 issue of *Boy's Life*, a magazine send to all Boy Scouts. Dave, W9OCM, shared this with members of the <u>Glowbugs mailing list</u>, a mailing for hams who enjoy working with vacuum tube circuits.

Of course, this unleashed a flood of memories and comments.

Dave himself comments:

In February 1959, I was 13 and just beginning to figure out radio. In some ways, I'm still trying to figure out radio....just not 13. I wouldn't be licensed until 2 years later 04/61 as KNØHSD.

Tom, NOJMY says,

If you go to <u>http://tinyurl.com/7oqrezk</u> you can read the article by W1UED (click on the appropriate line in the contents). Also, there's a National ad on the contents page. *[[All the ads are interesting to read....Dan]]* I was alive then, but it wasn't until the late winter of '67-68 that I picked up a Boy's Life mag out of boredom and stumbled onto an article called "Hamming it Up". And the rest is, as they say, "hay-seedery."

#### Jon, K1NV, comments,

I'm getting a little teary, seeing a copy of "Boys Life" for the first time in about 50+ years. There was a ton of practical info to satisfy any American boy's interests. I was torn between stamp collecting, astronomy, model airplanes, and, yes, radio. My stack of "Boys Life" magazines fed these interests.

We couldn't afford the shortwave set kit but the official Boy Scout crystal set got things going for me until I graduated to the Philco console with two shortwave bands in the mid-fifties. After learning code with flags and flashlights as a Boy Scout, the novice ticket arrived early in 1959.

#### Bill, KU8H, says,

My experience with Boy's Life is from the late 50s and early 60s. They did help set the hook for my interest in electronics in general – ham radio in particular. The oatmeal box with home made capacitor and a crystal detector was from Boy's Life. I don't remember which issue(s). That was more than two weeks ago! <evil grin>.

They also fed my interest in the outdoor life in the woods. When people want a campfire or a fireplace lit to this day...I'm their go-to man. One paper match no matter the wind. No gaso-line, kerosene, nor other artificial accelerants.

People are sometimes critical of Boy Scouts, and I often joke about my very short career as a Scout, but you have to hand it to them in many respects. They exposed boys to a wide range of activities, many of which stick with them for a lifetime.



## Scotty's Musings by "Scotty", WK3N

Editor's note: Scotty has been very active in sending me various ham radio related material, which I really appreciate, and some of that material is presented here. Scotty has a great idea of documenting DX history, via historic and/or rare QSL cards, old log pages, etc. So if you have anything along those lines, please send them my way! If the material is not in electronic format, I would be happy to scan them.



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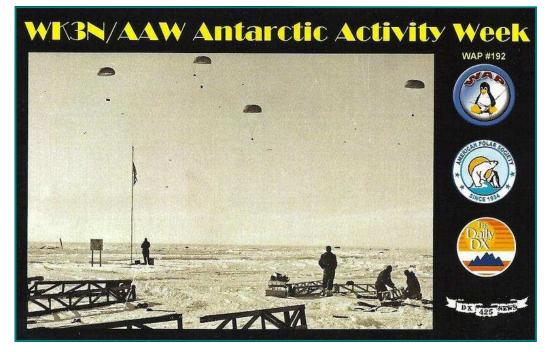
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## Antarctic Activity Week By "Scotty", WK3N

Now in it's ninetieth year, the Antarctic activity week now boasts over 40 special event stations world wide. All for the purpose of promoting awareness of the important work done by scientific community and it's associated amateur operators who delve out qso's when their work schedule permits. The February 2012 QST has a great article on the AAW.

"Scotty" WK3N, (WAP 192) is now in his third year of contributing. He will be passing out QSO's from Feb 20th to the 26th. His special AAW QSL and associated links to awards, can be seen at the WK3N page at <u>www.qrz.com</u>. His QSL card displays a rare October 1956 photo taken on the first days of the construction of the South Pole Station showing parachutes dropping construction materials.

WK3N'S special event QSL has even made it's way to the South Pole station, where it is on display. QSL is via bureau or direct with SASE or SAE and one IRC.



60M Band Rules Changes Coming By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The FCC has released a new Report & Order (R&O) that will change rules for the 60m band. An article on the ARRL website summarizes the changes:

The frequency 5368.0 kHz (carrier frequency 5366.5 kHz) is withdrawn and a new frequency of 5358.5 kHz (carrier frequency 5357.0 kHz) is authorized.

The effective radiated power limit in the 60 meter band is raised by 3 dB, from 50 W PEP to 100 W PEP, relative to a half-wave dipole. If another type of antenna is used, the station licensee must maintain a record of either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Three additional emission types are authorized. Data (emission designator 2K80J2D, for example, PACTOR-III), RTTY (emission designator 60H0J2B, for example, PSK31) and CW (150HA1A, i.e. Morse telegraphy by means of on-off keying). For CW, the carrier frequency must be set to the center frequency. For data and RTTY the requirement to transmit "only on the five center frequencies specified" may be met by using the same practice as on USB, i.e. by setting the suppressed carrier frequency that is 1.5 kHz below the center frequency.

The rules will take effect 30 days after they are published in the federal register.

#### How the ARRL Operates By Jim Weaver, K8JE, ARRL Director, Great Lakes Division

How the ARRL operates seems to be a mystery to many members. The confusion probably comes from the fact that many members assume ARRL in organized and operates the same way as their local club. It doesn't. Somewhat like the U.S. Government, ARRL has three branches of its organization. These are the Board of Directors, the Field Organization and the HQ Staff.

The Board of Directors, including the Vice Directors, are elected by members of the divisions they represent. In the case of the Great Lakes Division (GLD), these members are from Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio. The Board of Directors establish policy for the ARRL and is headed by the ARRL president who, along with the other officers, is elected by the Board.

The Field Organization is the group of volunteers that provide eight crucial services: emergency communications, message traffic, volunteer monitoring, RFI problem-solving, support of affiliated clubs, government liaison, encouragement of technical activities, and dissemination of on-the-air bulletins. The field organization is headed in each section by the section manager (SM).

Section managers are elected by members of the Sections they represent and head activities in their Sections to put League policy into effect at the field level.. The GLD consists of three sections, the Kentucky Section, the Michigan Section, and the Ohio Section. Each section spans the entire state.

The biggest part of the SM's job is coordinating the activities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in his or her section. Each section has hundreds of ARES members, so you can imagine what a gargantuan effort this is. Being an effective SM means a person must be willing to dedicate great effort to the job and must be an excellent, skilled leader.

The ARRL HQ staff support the field organization and provide a variety of other member services. The staff is headed by our Chief Executive Officer, who is hired by the Board and reports to the Board. The CEO is responsible for putting Board policy into action at headquarters and, through the services HQ performs, for the members.

Even though many members believe their SM reports to their Director, this is incorrect. Dale Williams, WA8EFK (MI), Jim Brooks, KY4Z (KY) and Frank Piper, KI8GW (OH) do not report to me. They report to Dave Patton, NN1N at HQ, who heads the ARRL membership services department, which supports the Field Organization.

The three Sections in the Great Lakes Division are extremely fortunate to have members who care enough for Amateur Radio and the ARRL to be willing to devote the extensive amount of time and effort to doing the job and, finally, who have the skills and knowledge to be successful, top-notch SMs.

It is obvious from their success that Dale, WA8EFK; Jim, KY4Z; and Frank, KI8GW are excellent SM. Their past successes are indisputable evidence that they have everything needed to do the job. We in the GLD are indeed fortunate to have such high-quality SMs leading our sections.

## Antennas For Sale

#### Cushcraft -X-9

Cushcraft -A3WS/30

Frequency Coverage - 40, 20, 15, 10meters Total Number of Elements—9 Total Elements per Band- 4 Total Weight ----85 lbs. Excellent Shape Frequency Coverage - 30,17 &12 meters Forward Gain 8.0 db 2000 Watts PEP Needs a new Boom and Element end caps Two New 30 Meter Traps

Price: \$750 or best offer

Price: \$150 or best offer

CONTACT: Dwaine Modock, K8ME E-MAIL: <u>k8me@sbcglobal.net</u>

# Go to www.2cars.org to reserve and pay for your 2012 Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip



CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention, the 2012 bus trip will take place on Saturday May 19, 2012.

The Bus trip will cost \$45.00 dollars per person, the bus will be stopping for breakfast on the way down, with a brief stop on the way home for a quick bite. You are responsible for your food and Hamvention ticket costs.

Stop 1: The bus will leave promptly at 3:30 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will be security.

Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Dayton at approximately 4:00 am. When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance. The bus was sold out in 2010 so reserve your seats as early as possible.

If you have any questions please see Dwaine at a cars meeting, call 440-582-3462 or go to www.2cars.org and click on the Dayton Bus trip link to pay using PayPal. Checks can be mailed to: CARS, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131-0264 attn. Dayton bus

73, Dwaine, K8ME and the Bus Committee



# **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 Callsi	gn
W8DXA:	NODXA Repeater	147.360

Web-site: http://www.papays.com/nodxa.html Newsletter Submission: wd8iou@adelphia.net

# NODXA Club Officials for 2011-2012

President: Secretary: Treasurer: Newsletter:

Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW V. President: Dwaine Modock, K8ME Al Moriarty, N8CX Mary Michaelis, N8DMM David Autry, WD8IOU

(440 - 237 - 2816)(440 - 582 - 3462)(216 - 221 - 3682)(440-236-5426) (440 - 238 - 0417)



# **DXCC** Info

As of July 2011, the current DXCC Entities total is: 341

## Newsletter Contributors

Thanks to the following for their contribution to this months edition: N8TR, N8DMM, KB8NW, N8CX, K8YSE, K8ME, K8AV, K8JE, WK3N, AF8C, KB6NU, and Rich Lane.

# 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

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