



Southeastern DX Club

W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB

February 2008 Newsletter

From the President.....

I was pleased with the club's participation in the CQ WW 160m contest. The big guns did their usual 1000+ QSOs, but more importantly, lots of members got on the air and made contacts. Often these contacts were made barefoot and with a compromise antenna. Topband is lots of fun and always good for a thrill and big surprise. The Phone portion is coming up the 23rd and 24th, so get ready for the 2nd half of the contest. Remember that the club scores include the combined scores of BOTH the CW and Phone weekends, so we need lots of folks on the air. Our sincere thanks to those members who are also SECC members. We appreciate you listing the Southeastern DX Club as your affiliated club.

Thanks go to Jim Strible, K4DLI, for stepping up and becoming editor of the SEDXC's monthly newsletter. Jim told me that he used to edit the club newsletter back in the mid-80s, I guess that was before Rick, N4XMX, our retiring editor took over for his 17 year stint!

Your club's DXpedition team to Costa Rica is ready to go! And special thanks to Chaz Cone (W4GKF) and his lovely XYL, Gael, for giving the team a proper sendoff at a special Valentine's Day party. We appreciate their kindness and generosity very much! Remember; look for TI50DX in the ARRL Phone contest March 1 and 2nd. This is part of the SEDXC's 50th anniversary celebration.

We are still looking for a Filed Day coordinator and a club Historian. Think about helping us out! 73, CU Wednesday night, February 20th.

Bob K4UEE

PS we have a request for DXpedition funding from the guys going to 9X. The details of their request are attached. This will be voted on at the upcoming meeting! (*Editor note*) See the last two pages for the document presented and letter from INDEXA.

Vice President' Report—February 2008

I got a glimpse of summer today. Storms were raking the southeast, and the black stuff swirling over Sweat

Nexrad capability on www.weatherunderground.com, and there were the boomers—some nearby and more sliding by to the west. Fortunately I had disconnected all the antennas and control leads last night—but that is a real job and one repeated too often as warm weather rolls around. I think I need to improve my protection method. We probably all do and may of us have lightning related questions. I'm happy say that I've persuaded Larry Scheff, W4QEJ, to speak to us on the subject in June. Larry is the author of the recent Lightning Part 1 article in QST and a nationally known expert in the field. Part II will appear before very long, and Larry has written the equivalent of a small book on the subject. Larry asks that we come armed with questions. If you press him, he might tell you a little about non-military government agencies as well. He is fluid in a number of unusual languages, such as Mandarin Chinese—a really interesting individual. So put the June meeting on your calendar.

The 160m cw contest was a nice one. I think the band conditions this year were about the best I have heard during the contest. Things may be changing a little in the cw contesting world. Alex, VE3NEA, has announced a product called CW Skimmer which will decode up to 700 signals simultaneously in a passband as wide as your receiver can deliver. The product also will extract the calls of each station and display them on a band map. So, you may be running and see a needed multiplier pop up on the Skimmer screen. Jump there, work the station and come back. Rather than using previous detection methods, which were not all that reliable, CW Skimmer uses Bayesian statistical detection. And if you need to use it for the brief meteor scatter bonanzas on UHF/VHF cw, it will decode the non-human high speed cw that is used there. The debate has already started and will rage on as to whether this is good or bad, fair or cheating—but a line has been crossed. You need to check this out at <http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/>.

Our program this month will feature the Master of QSLing, Bill Barr, who will share his QSLing secrets, with major emphasis on LOTW. Nothing beats the excitement of receiving that rare card in the mail, but when you are trying to fill band/mode gaps the expense

can really be an issue. These days, IRCs seem to be ever harder to find, and with the erosion of the dollar, a green stamp does not go very far. Just check out this year's price for the Begali Signature paddle to appreciate this. Bill will show you just how much money LOTW will save you—maybe enough to let you buy that Begali—and he will lead you through the procedure of being LOTW certified and using LOTW confirmations for DXCC purposes. Maybe he will also comment on possible expansion of LOTW to other awards.

73 for now,
Bob W2WG

Treasures Report: By Mike ND4V

Treasurers Report

As of January 31, 2008

General Fund	\$4389.70
Packet Fund	<u>20.15</u>
Cash on hand and in bank	\$4409.85

This club year, we have made donations in support of the following dxpeditions:

VP6DX	\$300
3B7C	\$160
5T	\$100

As the sunspot cycle picks up, I'm sure there will be more opportunities presenting.

Good News on the antenna front:

Norcross hams got some good news. The City Council scrapped their old telecommunications ordinance that limited ham towers to 35 feet and adopted a new ordinance that is aligned with Gwinnett County. Towers up to 75 feet only need a building permit. Above that requires a Special Use Permit. Best of all, towers erected under the old ordinance were grandfathered in. (that's me!!)

SEDXC Meeting Minutes Wednesday January 2008

Bob K4UEE called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

There were twenty four (24) in attendance.

Presidents Report: Bob K4UEE discussed:

- 1) Called meeting to order at approx 7:30PM
- 2) New meeting Agenda would insure that we get to the program faster
- 3) Bob introduced the new members ---- K4ZF
- 4) The remaining officers were asked for their reports

Vice Presidents Report: Bob W2WG discussed:

- 1) Upcoming meeting and speakers

Secretary's Report: George N4GRN:

- 1) Declared the minutes taken as being posted on the web and there were no changes so they were accepted.

Treasurer's report: Mike ND4V

- 1) gave the report.

Activities Manager: Gary WB4SQ:

- 1) There was no report from Gary.

Membership: Bill N4NX announced the following:

- 1) Membership is over 200 now.
- 2) Reminded everyone of the QSL's being sent to bureau and that DX calls now cost 7 cents
- 3) We want to welcome new member Arnold Solomon, KC4ZUA.
- 4) W5LE reported that we signed a new member at GARS

Webmaster: Chaz W4GKF: There was no report

How's DX?:

- 1) Bob discussed the St Bart TO5FJ DXpedition
- 2) Hal spoke about Asia being open on 40, 80, 160 at sunrise on long path recently
- 3) Mike said that J5C had been on a lot
- 4) 3D2 had also been open on long path

Announcements:

- 1) The club membership is asked to participate in the 160 contest. The DX Pros will help with antennas if asked
- 2) Norm WA4ZXV Norm president of GARS thanked SEDXC for the DX101 presentation and a good booth at the recent Techfest. He also discussed that GARS had the most attendance when they discuss DX at the meetings.
- 3) It was reported that DX101 given by Wes and DX102 given by Jim both had a full-house.
- 4) Wes will be presenting at North Fulton on Tuesday night.
- 5) Cycle 24 has officially started
- 6) NN4ZZ Al had some FIST stickers to give out for those interested
- 7) Mike list raffle items
- 8) Rich N4XMX was acknowledged for being editor of the bulleting for past 17 years!!!
- 9) TI50DX is on schedule and 12 SEDXC members will be participating
- 10)

Old Business:

- 1) There was no old business as last month was the annual Christmas party.

New Business:

- 1) Consider starting DX103 at next hamfest? This was just placed on the table for discussion.

- 2) Moving the monthly bulletin to public view was discussed. This was introduced by Joel. After discussion it was voted that we move the bulleting to public view.
- 3) The club sponsoring the Ga QSO plaque for mixed low power was introduced by Chaz and seconded by Bill and the membership voted to sponsor that plaque again.
- 4) W2WG asked if we will participate in the Birmingham hamfest after general discussion this was approved.
- 5) Bill made a motion to use the DX Magazine list of most wanted as our SEDXC criteria for sponsoring DXpeditions. This was agreed.
- 6) W5LE made a motion to approve Mauritiana 5T for a donation by 2/3 vote it was approved.
- 7) W5LE made a motion to decline Swains Island and there was a second so no vote was taken.

BREAK and RAFFLE:

The break was at approximately 8:15PM. Raffle tickets were sold prior to start of meeting and again at break.

NOTICE:

It is extremely difficult to keep up with the raffle items and winners when we have a large number of items. I will be placing a clip board on the raffle table and I am asking all donors to fill-out and all winners to fill-out the form. THANKS N4GRN

ITEM	DONATED BY	WON BY
HP 4400 scanner	NN4ZZ	
Low Pass filter	NN4ZZ	
Koss headphones	NN4ZZ	W2WG
Ethernet card	NN4ZZ	
512 DDR memory	NN4ZZ	K4DLI
Cold Shrink	NN4ZZ	K4WX
5 1/5 floppy's and case	NN4ZZ	
TAAF shirt	K4UEE	
PCI Ide interface	???	
Dubai Duty Free hat	K4UEE???	
YV0D hat	K4UEE	???
MFJ WP	N4NX	
Repeater book	N4NX	KC4CMK
ICOM hat	N4NX	
YV shirt	K4UEE	???
Key cleaner	N4DV	
Key cleaner	N4DV	

Program: Gene K4MOG presents Radar Methods and Ham Radio

Meeting adjourned approximately 9:30pm.

George Nicholson Secretary

Activities Manager Report:

For the February meeting; T18/K4UN (Eddie) donated another couple bags of that great Costa Rican coffee as one of the door prizes. Also, I look forward to picking N4NX's brain about how to extract qsl cards from difficult DX entities, such as the EP3SMH who seems to make a living from collecting US dollars.

We should finalize our 50th anniversary big event. There's been a suggestion by yours truly to publicize and run a contest in Helen at the Octoberfest. Multipliers would involve how many ounces of beer the current operator has consumed; with higher points available as the operator becomes harder to work. But seriously... let's try to finalize what the special event is going to be. My vote is for Octoberfest.

2008 Hamfest Calendar:

Feb 23 - Dalton @ NGA Fairgrounds

(<http://W4DRC.com>)

Mar 15 - Kennehoochee @ Jim Miller Park

(<http://www.w4bti.org>)

May 3,4 - Birmingham @ Zamora Temple

(www.w4cue.com)

Jun 7 - Atlanta @ Jim Miller Park

(<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>)

July 12 - Lanierland (Gainesville - w4rlg@bellsouth.net)

Aug 9 - Ellijay (www.qsl.net/w4hhh)

Aug 16, 17 - Huntsville

(Charlieemerson@hamfest.org)

Sept ? - Shelby

Nov 1, 2 - Lawrenceville

PS - If anyone has ideas on how to load up a Unihat on 160M w/o the coax stubs, I'm all ears!

Gary McConville WB4SQ

From the Editor:

Well, here I am putting out my first issue of the New SEDXC newsletter. I am just getting use to trying to use the word processor I have to follow closely the format that Rick used for so many years with great success. I don't know if the format used this month will be the final one or not. It all depends if I can find something easier to use.

Rick did a great job for 17-years and I can tell you I WILL NOT be doing it that long. So Bob--- start looking for someone more adept at this than I am, for next year.

I do hope to add a couple of new features and one of them will be a biography of various members. The second will be a Tips column. Anything you have found

that is a help in operating or some technical idea that helps in setting up, repairing your ham gear or antennas that might be of interest to other club members will be welcome. So—send them in and share them with others.

I will start it out with a tip this month that I have come up with.

How many of you find that when using headphones the output of your radio is not quite enough? Maybe it is just us old guys and a few younger ones that had those 1 KW "Thump-Thump" amps in the trunks of their cars that vibrated my rearview mirror when they pulled up beside me. Anyway, I have been having this problem using phones and when the audio is turned way up high there seems to be a little distortion. So--last year at Dayton I came across the Ramsey Electronics booth and they have a very nice Stereo Headphone Amplifier model SHA1C. Sells for \$29.95 and is a very well built kit. Takes about 2 hours to finish and has a separate volume control for each channel. Plug it into the headphone jack and run the receiver level at about 1/4 to 1/2 level and have plenty of good, clean audio in the phones.

If you need something like this, give it a try. I have two of them now. I got the first one to use on the computer when I was using SKYPE since I wanted to keep the speakers hooked up and with a "Y" connection on the output of the computer sound card the headphone level was not enough. Now I have plenty of audio from the computer for both the speakers and phones in the boom mike.

Now—get those tips in and lets see if we can help out our fellow hams.

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The SEDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southeastern DX Club . All opinions expressed by the contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, officers, or club. We welcome your opinion.

DX PACKET FREQ. (Corrections, 1/2/04)
N4XMX off line(2400) 144.91 (direct, Vinings),
off line(2400) 145.65 (direct or ATLDX)

Note: ATLDX is down right now, direct OK.

KS4Q (2400) 144.97 MHz; 'c saw3'

(2400) 145.63 MHz; 'c saw4'

(1200) 145.69 MHz; 'c saw5'

Once you get a connect on any of the three above frequencies, enter 'c saw1'. Once you get a connect to saw1, enter 'c ks4q' or simply 'dx'. or telnet dx.ks4q.net

NI4X (9600) 144.93, 145.71, 440.75

K4UGA (Athens)(2400) 145.67 (SE Megaclst)

(telnet 128.192.52.40 599, must put in port 599)

DX COMMUNICATION FREQ.

Simplex 147.54

K4JPD Repeater (tone 85.4 Hz) 147.195+

SEDXC WEBPAGE

www.sedxc.org

SEDXC REFLECTOR

sedxc@contesting.com

International DX Association, Inc.
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Catawba, SC 29704
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January 25, 2008

Chaz Cone
Southeastern DX Club
207 Longview Drive.
Norcross, GA 30071

Dear Chaz:

We are sending you this letter as one who is the contact for Southeastern DX Club as identified on the ARRL's list of affiliated amateur radio clubs. We wish to provide you some information about the International DX Association—most often referred to as INDEXA—and ask that you share our message with all of your members, either at one of your meetings or via your club newsletter. If you or other members of your group find what we are doing is worthwhile, then we ask that you support INDEXA by becoming a member.

In 1983 INDEXA was incorporated as a non-profit organization to provide assistance to various DXpeditions to rare and semi-rare DXCC entities. This year we are celebrating our 25th anniversary of providing that support. In that time, INDEXA has helped over 175 expeditions to operate from many countries on the DX "most wanted" list. We have supported expeditions to many very rare DXCC entities, sometimes more than once. In our earlier years we actually supplied radio equipment such as rigs, antennas, coax, etc., along with purely financial support. Over time our support has become principally financial contributions since most of today's DXpeditions are receiving valuable support from the various equipment manufacturers.

The latest information on propagation predictions are that the next Solar Cycle began in early January 2008. It looks like we are now beginning that positive climb to what is believed to be a very strong cycle which in turn leads to great propagation on the bands. This positive propagation trend will certainly lead to more DXpeditions wanting to activate countries from the "Most Wanted" DXCC list. Between December 2007 and March 2008, INDEXA is supporting five separate DXpeditions. We have a lot more fun in store the next few years in our DXing hobby.

What does this mean for INDEXA? Simply, INDEXA will be solicited for financial support to help send DXpeditions on their way. DXpeditions make possible all time new DXCC entities for some and new band entities/countries for many. Yet, many DXpeditions are undertaken only when

sufficient "seed money" is pledged to render them possible, and that is where an organization like INDEXA comes into play.

As a group which has expressed interest in Amateur Radio DXing, we presume your club is interested in making DX happen. Beyond financial support that your organization may already be providing—often after the fact, via contributions with your QSL activity—we ask that members of your group join INDEXA, a non-profit DX organization which has as one of its main goals provision of financial aid to DXpeditions seeking to activate rare DX entities. A visit to our web site at www.indexa.org will provide an informative overview of our organization and our DXing history. The web site also provides information on how to join electronically or by mail.

If you are already a member of INDEXA, we value your support so we can continue supporting DXpeditions as we have done for a quarter century.

Thanks and best DX !!

--73

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, INDEXA President

John Scott, K8YC, INDEXA Vice-President

Bill Jennings, W4UNP, INDEXA Secretary-Treasurer



SEDXC DXpedition Support Request

Entity Name / Call Sign	Rwanda / 9X0R
Web page	www.9x0r.com
Team leader / number of members:	EA5RM / 10 operators
Date of DXpedition	March 16 th to March 27 th ,2008
QSL manager / QSL route	EA5RM / direct,bureau, LOTW
Budget estimated for DXpedition	\$ 40.306
Position on most wanted list:	#45 in the 2007 Most Needed List (The DX Magazine)
Landing permit/operating permission approved.	YES
Last time this entity was activated	10 years without a big operation
Typical interval between activations	
Anyone planning to activate this entity before your DXpedition	I do not think so. It's almost impossible to get a 9X license right now. May be will be easy a few later of our operation.
Objective / Strategy	50.000 Qso with 3 stations (CW, SSB and digital)
SEDXC member initiating request	
SEDXC member(s) participating	
Funding amount requested	As high as possible
Send Funds to:	EA5RM
SEDXC logo on QSL cards?	YES
SEDXC logo on web page	YES
Additional comments: We'll donate a new HF radio and a power supply for the future Kigali Radio Club and also we are helping to found RARU, Rwanda Amateur Radio Union. Check our website for details: www.9x0r.com	

Internal Use

Date published in the newsletter	
Results of member review at the meeting: (approved / disapproved)	
Funds disbursed on date:	
Funds disbursed by:	

