



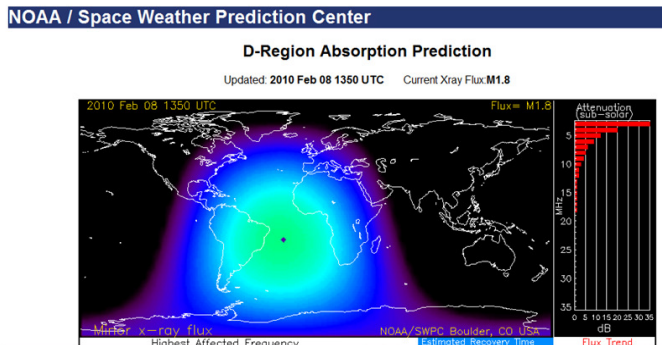
Southeastern DX Club W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB
February 2010

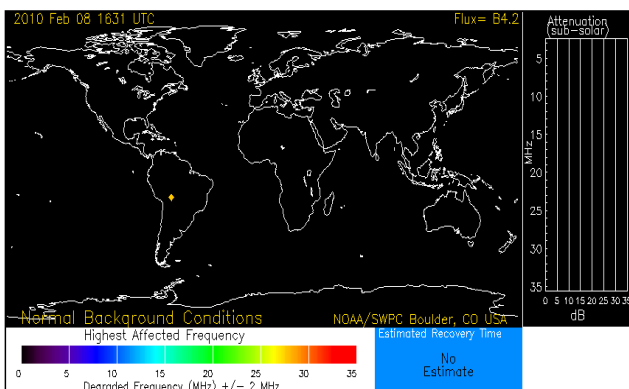
President's Report:

Let the good times roll and continue to roll. Things have been simmering nicely for a while, and this last sunspot cluster is a monster. The flux was 90 this AM, a real keeper. VU2PAI was in here at 599 on 20m, and 15m was open to all sorts of rare places in Africa. I saw a number of nice spots on 12m too. I notice Bob Mantell K4ESA took some time away from his racing buggies and spent it on 10m instead, where he has been reeling in the DX. Now, if we could just get Bob on CW.

Here is a nice site to help you with DX:
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/dregion/index.html>



This morning around 7 AM the low bands were not in very good shape, and from this diagram you could tell why—the D region. You could also see you might want to be poking around from 10 MHz and up. We were in the purple area at that time, which roughly said from 40m down we would be losing signal going through the D layer. After another hour the chart looked like this:



Also, be sure to check out the SEDXC chat room. <http://sedxc.dodropin.org> (also at the top of the SEDXC.org web page). You MUST enable cookies, at least for that site, a fact I initially missed. This is the modern day equivalent to a local 2m spotting and chat net. Thanks to WB4MAK for setting it up and to Chaz for hooking us up via the web page.

Speaking of WB4MAK, while Mack was NFARL President, he set up an Atlanta area club council which meets once a quarter for a breakfast discussion. The next meeting is to be held on February 20 at Piccadilly's on Peachtree Industrial at 8:30 AM. This meeting is being expanded to include program chairmen, who will have a separate idea-generating session. Ordinarily Jim Cummings would be our representative at that session, but he already has multiple commitments. I am looking for a volunteer to stand in for Jim at the meeting. They are fun and very useful. The Piccadilly breakfast spread is excellent. Please contact me if you would be willing to attend. You'll also get a chance to meet and talk with many of the local club presidents, and Jim will greatly appreciate any feedback you bring on program ideas.

73, and see you for the February 17th meeting.

Bob W2WG

Vice President's Report:

Last month we were treated to a program of a past DXpedition (Navassa) located not too far off the Southeast coast of the States. This month Tom Harrell, N4XP will provide us a program from one of the most recent (October 2009) DXpeditions, K4M. The K4M team operated from Midway Island in the South Pacific. Several of our own SEDXC members were team members of the DXpedition including Tom, N4XP, Paul Newberry N4PN, Charlie Wooten NF4A, and Joe Blackwell AA4NN. Tom as Co-leader of the DXpedition will give us our first look at the team's trials, tribulation, and accomplishments in making 61,077 contacts to 18,465 unique call signs.

See you at our February 17th meeting.

73, Jim C. KT4MM

Secretaries Report:

SEDXC REGULAR MEETING – 2010/01/20 –
PIEDMONT HOSPITAL

- Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM
- 40 in attendance; 3 new for first time
- Dave Johnson, K4SSU, was the guest speaker
 - Dave titled his talk “Is Navassa Still There?”
 - Dave showed slides from his expedition in October, 1978
 - The story was superb as only Dave can tell it!
 - Very interesting photos of the gear that was taken (this was 1978 – how things have changed!)
 - Dave’s presentation was another example of how blessed we are to have top DXers in our Club that allow us to travel vicariously on their DX adventures!
- Chaz, W4GKF, made a presentation on the SEDXC monthly contest (see the SEDXC.org home page for details).
 - December high power winner was K4WZ with 205 entities
 - December low power winner was N4HH with 14 entities
 - Serious plaques were awarded to the winners
- George, N4GRN, was awarded a plaque for being on the winning team in the 2008 CQWW Phone Contest.
- The Club voted to continue to sponsor a plaque for the CQ 160 meter contest – cost \$50.00.
- The “How’s DX” portion of the business meeting yielded these comments:
 - JT1CO has been on 160 and 80 during the morning.
 - 9M2 has been on and very workable

It was noted that a “Chat Room” on the internet might be helpful in spotting DX opportunities (this has since been implemented – see SEDXC.org for more info).

- Mack, WB4MAK, briefed us on the special breakfast meeting being held at his house/ham shack on March 27, 2010 at 8:30 AM.
 - The meeting will expose potential DXers and new Club members to the DX side of our hobby.
 - Invitations will be made to local clubs to send four of their members to the breakfast.
 - RSVP required
 - Members of the SEDXC Executive Board will help host the breakfast.
 - Mack handed out a flyer that will be distributed to local club presidents at their next meeting.
 - Real-time DX chasing will take place!

(As an aside, Mack hosts a quarterly breakfast meeting for local club presidents.. The purpose of the meeting is to foster interclub communications in the Greater Atlanta area, and to share ideas and resources to strengthen and grow the amateur radio community.)

Local club news;

- Norm, WA4ZXV, from GARS thanked the SEDXC for their participation in the GARS TechFest.
 - Chuck, AE4CW, from NFARL announced their Youth Night to be held at the regular February meeting.
 - Jim and Shelly (AB2CD and AB1CD) will do a “Mister Wizard” show aimed at stirring up interest in e radio and electronics.
 - Plan to bring a youngster!
 - Gary, WB4SQ, noted that the Dayton DX dinner reservations are available.
 - Club members can buy tickets for the SEDXC tables from Gary
 - Tickets are \$40.00
 - Gary was advanced \$800.00 to buy a block of 20 tickets.
 - Contact Gary at wb4sq@yahoo.com for your tickets
 - George, N4GRN, commented that we should not contact state or national Fish and Wildlife agencies regarding this year’s ham operations at the reserves, but go directly to the local managers of the particular reserve you are interested in.
 - The request for funding from Club member N2WB for the up coming DXpedition to Iraq, YI9PSE, was approved by the membership for \$350.00. We will get our logo on the QSL card and their web page.
 - Tom, N4XP, will be the speaker at the February meeting. He will talk to us about his recent DXpedition to K4M Midway.
- The treasurer, Mike, ND4V, reported the Club has over \$5,000 in the treasury.
- New Business
 - Harry, W4KJ, has agreed to organize the SEDXC dinner at the Stockyards in Dayton on Thursday night. Harry will put out an announcement regarding same.
 - SEDXC QSL cards are available for ordering on the Club website in the Members Only section.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wes – W3WL
Secretary, SEDXC

Activities Manager Report:

Looks like the hamfest season is cranking up with Dalton being an easy drive on Feb 27th. Next comes Kennebec on Mar 20th at the Cobb County Fairgrounds where we'll should once again have a table.

The Atlanta Radio Club will have Martin Jue of MFJ as a guest speaker at Georgia Tech on Mar 25th with an open invitation to all hams. More to follow...

On Mar 27th, WB4MAK (Mack) will be hosting a DX breakfast for pending DXers. Limited seating is available. The goal is to whet the appetite of the newbie. Many of the more experienced DXers have volunteered to be servers for this event. Additional details on this at the next meeting.

Please join the discussions on our newly linked online DX chat room has been established courtesy of Mack and NFARL. Look for the FLASH at the top of our SEDXC.org page for details. See everyone at the Feb 17th meeting at Piedmont hospital.
Gary – WB4SQ

Treasurer's Report:

At January 31, 2010

Operating Account Beginning Balance: \$5,221.58

Receipts in the month :

Sale of IRC's	56.00
Meeting raffle	91.00
Badges/Pins	32.00
Memberships	165.00
<u>Total Cash and Checks</u>	<u>\$344.00</u>

Disbursements in the month of January were:

Y19PSE dx-pedition	350.00
Great Lakes Plaques	8.00
CQ 160 Sponsor	50.00
SW Ohio DX Dinner	800.00
<u>Total disbursed</u>	<u>\$1,208.00</u>

<u>Operating account balance</u>	<u>\$4,357.58</u>
Balance Jan 31, 2010	<u>\$4,357.58</u>

73, Mike ND4V

Editors Note:

As an added note to the site Bob gives in his report I would like to add if you want to see what a really BIG flare does to the D-Region absorption go to the bottom of the page and run the one entitled : "Bastille Day Jul 14, 2000 X5.7" in the box entitled "D-Region Major Event Animations". It will take a little while for it to load (unless you have a super fast computer and network—I don't) but, it is well worth the viewing. This site has also had a site

location change but, you can still view several past events at this location.

Here is something to think about. With all the software in the current transceivers what is your opinion on the following subject? I think this might also apply to the Ten-Tec Orion series to a lesser extent.

Where are the Ham Radio Hackers?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the Ten-Tec Omni VII Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ten-Tec-Omni-VII/>), one ham wrote:

"If I was 17 years-old I would be hacking I-phones and other items like George Hotz, the 17 year-old from New Jersey who was able to unlock the Apple I-phone so that it could be used on other cell service networks.

"When I was his age, I was hacking dial telephones. Then one day the phone company showed up at my house. My parents were not impressed with my technical abilities.

"This morning there is a story that George has just hacked the 'un-hackable' Sony 3 Play Station. He says the hack was 95% software and 5% hardware.

"A quick check of the modifications site run by that guy over in Denmark, shows that there are NO MODS for the O7...interesting. I just wonder how many strange and wonderful things can be done with those 36 buttons/switches on the front panel. Can the O7 be made even better?"

In my reply, I asked, "Why stop at pressing some buttons on the front panel? Why doesn't someone really hack the Omni VII and develop a completely new software package for it?" Rigs like the Omni VII and the Elecraft K3 would seem to be perfect candidates for this kind of hacking.

Sure, there is an order of magnitude difference between a \$300 iPod and a \$3,000 radio, but we're big boys, aren't we? Besides, aside from overdriving the finals, what real damage can you do to the radio? It seems to me that even if you manage to screw up the software in the rig, you can get back to square one by simply re-loading the manufacturer's software.

Ham radio operators have a long history of modifying their radios. Page through any stack of QSTs or CQ Magazines from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and you'll find many articles describing modifications to the popular radios of the day. About the only thing hams do to their rigs today is to clip a diode to allow it to operate out-of-band.

What does it say about the technical capabilities of today's hams that we haven't yet done with our gear what some 17-year-old kid has done with the iPhone and the PlayStation? Why don't we have any third-

party software for Omni VII or the K3? I think if a manufacturer actually encouraged third-party software development, they'd quickly gain a following and make their brand even stronger, don't you?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches the infamous One-Day Tech Class, and operates a lot of 40m CW. E-mail him your comments and questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Dan puts this column out to newsletter and bulletin editors to use and if you have any comments either pro or con send them to him at his e-mail address.

On the Orion issue, there is one program being developed by Onno, PA1AP, that has the potential to make some of the operational setting of AGC threshold and RF gain much easier on the Orion I & II. This program will allow you to make these settings without going into the menu and making them. I have been trying out the Beta versions and they work very well. He is sending me a new version to try that will also allow selecting Antenna 1, 2 or receive by just a mouse click in a small window that will be running in one corner of the screen along with several other functions that will be selectable by mouse clicks. I will report later on how these operate when I have a chance to give them a workout.

Jim K4DLI

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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.

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 +600

SPECIAL NOTE:

The club is now using the Repeater on 145.410, down 600, for chatting and real time DX announcements.

Join the group there. No tone required.

SEDXC WEBPAGE

www.sedxc.org

SEDXC Reflector: sedxc@contesting.com

SEDXC Chat: <http://sedxc.dodropin.org>