



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

May 2001

**Next meeting: May 15th, 7:30 PM at
Radioshack.com just outside I-285 on
the Buford Highway.**

MINUTES 4/17/01

-Dale Nordin, K4HGG, Sec.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-Mike Greenway, K4PI

The changes in the standing rules that were printed in the last news letter were accepted at the last club meeting. This should give us some guidance on future dxpedition donation request. Save a hard copy for your reference.

We are coming up on our year end and if you would like to join with us another year consider getting your dues to the treasurer, Nancy, NK4U. Anyone that has joined in the last couple of months will be carried over into the new year without having to pay again.

This is Dayton Hamfest time... May 18-20. If you have not attended before it is definitely worth the trip. You will see a lot of DX there plus lots of goodies. They have a DX banquet and many DX hospitality suites. They also have a DX program where the latest DXpeditions give shows. I think we are lucky as we have probably seen most of the DXpedition shows already at our club meetings. FO0AAA, K5K, D68C, and A52A. We are very fortunate to be in an area where several DXpeditioner's live.

One of our members has been elected to the CQ DX Hall of Fame. Bob Allphin, K4UEE has been inducted. We have another SEDXC member who has been inducted into the CQ Hall of Fame. Carl Henson, WB4ZNH. Carl lives in Woodbridge, VA.

The QRM level is quickly coming up to it's summer level and 10 meters is going into it's regular summer siesta. If you know any prospective DX'ers please invite them to the meeting. There is no obligation for them to join. If there are any particular programs you would like to see let me know.

73 Mike Greenway, K4PI, P49I

Mike-K4PI, convened the meeting to order at 7:37 with 13 members present. We also welcomed a visitor -Phil-K4PWS

Bill-N4NX was available to check DXCC cards and checked a couple of DXCC applications. He also noted that he cannot approve/check cards over 10 years old nor 160 meter contacts.

Old Business:

The standing rules for funding eligibility of DXpeditions were published in the last newsletter. A percentage of the budget and depending on the rarity of the DXpedition, will govern the amount of the donation by the SEDX Club. The club approved the standing rules change.

There was some discussion on whether we should order some more Club "T" shirts. Is there any interest?

The program:

This month's program was an excellent presentation by Wes-W3WL on the Comoros (D68) DXpedition. The Comoros Islands lie off the coast of Tanzania (5H3). The members of the DXpedition first flew to Mauritius, then on to the Comoros via Tanzania Air. The total count was 168,722 QSOs, an all time DXpedition record.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

-Dale, K4HGG/SM1WRI

TIME TO RENEW!!!

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U, Tres.

There was no report this month. -Nancy NK4U

Review, Glen Martin Hazer

-Gary Poorman, K4VT

After assembly of the Cushcraft X-9 antenna and the erection of the 75 foot Rohn 45 tower it became apparent that old age was setting in and the thought of getting it to the top was overwhelming. The Glen Martin ads claiming "never need to climb your tower again" got my attention and one was ordered.

The unit came nicely packed on a 10 foot skid. upon unpacking all this stuff my problems started. The instruction book (I use the words instruction loosely) starts off with the warning "If you are a rocket scientist you may be able to assemble your unit using these instructions".

The Hazer unit consist of a rail system with a railroad type tram. The tram has 8 wheels that ride on either side of the aluminum rails. The bottom set of wheels on the inside are oval shaped to provide locking function for the tram when not going in the "up" mode. The tram is pulled up or down the rails using a continuous loop of aircraft cable run through a winch assembly which mounts at the bottom right under all this stuff. At the top of the rails a "docking frame is mounted which when fully up, the tram mates with to transfer the wind load to the tower and off the rails.

Now to the review. I think I only had to climb the tower about 17 times to get it all mounted and aligned. After assembly, when mounting the X-9 on it, it became apparent that the antenna would have to be mounted slightly off center to allow the elements to clear the tower during erection. This caused the tram to tilt slightly in the rails and not allow movement up or down. This was corrected by adding weights to one end of the boom until all was straight again. A call to Glen Martin (this was the 5th call on a not toll free number) questioning the load I was putting on this thing and suggesting that maybe I needed a smaller antenna got the response "its better to be safe then sorry". Dispite the fact that they rate this for 18 sq feet they didn't seem to know if it would hold.

We finally cranked this monster up. The book says you can do it with a drill. We used up 3 batteries and wound up hand cranking it the last 10 feet. The system does not like the 100 lb load we put on it. It creaked its way to the top.

I then had to climb the tower once again to check and see if it docked correctly in its sleeves at the top. It had. It has now withstood some wind testing ok. Had to climb one more time to fix the coax loop at the top which did not clear the top of the tower since the tram sits on the side of the tower.

Conclusion: This unit may be fine for small 3 element antennas but not for serious antennas. If you do buy one, ask me for details learned about how not to assemble it.

MARCH MADNESS

-Phil Latta, W4GTS

When sports announcers refer to the basketball tournaments as "March Madness", they should also think of the CQ WPX SSB Contest of March 24-25. This year was really madness.

Most of the Dxer/Contesters are careful to use good phonetics for their suffixs but in these days of multiple PREFIXES, many of them are a little careless. Add to that the QRM caused by people over-driving their kilowatts and the foreign accents and it sure gets rough! (especially to ear-drums made in 1916!)

Still, lots of fun. CC4A and XR1K are Chile. AY8A is Argentina, 4O7A is Yugoslavia, and many others! Why are TM and TO French prefixes?

From our president: "The D68C was a big disapointment (on low bands.. ed). We were expecting big things from them but it never materialized."

From our editor: " Except for the high bands, signals have been retty weak, the one exception was the D68C crowd. These people cranked up with six high power stations and 23 operators. They basically drained the bands dry except for 160." Must be the difference in Douglas County and Cobb County skip...



Mike, K4PI, explaining the Standing Rules during the April meeting.



Wes, W3WL, showing a model of one of the boats found at D68C

2001 GA QSO PARTY COMING UP!

-Gary Breed, K9AY

Sponsored by: South East Contest Club (SECC)
Southeastern DX Club (SEDXC)

***** NEXT GQP IS JULY 21-22, 2001 *****
MARK YOUR SUMMER CONTEST CALENDAR!

Keep watching for information at: <http://secc.contesting.com>

DX TIDBITS

-Rick Glisson, N4XMX

All I can say is I hope Bill Barr, N4NX, is still friends after I bring all my cards to the next meeting. The 80M cards have continued to roll in and have grown to 103. This means I can send for 80M DXCC as well as 5BDXCC. Also in the mix will be 15M and 17MDXCC. That is already a \$50 check to ARRL plus a little for a couple of cards over the 120 limit. Bill does the work and the ARRL gets the money. Doesn't seem fair does it?

Two outstanding all time new ones are exactly that, outstanding. 3Y0C and three different Cocos-Keeling ops. I have a good story to tell about the last couple of VK9C's I worked this week.

Conditions have been real squirrely. They were spotted on 15M CW at 0223Z. Not only is 15M usually shut down by in this case, they were MUCH better LONG PATH! When I clicked in DXBase (DXBase 2002 is now shipping!), I had the tribander pointed south to play with the VP8 bunch. Lo and behold, heard a pretty good signal! Hated to even take the time to try short path but I did. Lots more noise and much weaker signals. Went back to LP and worked them.

Interestingly enough, W3/W2/W1's were reporting best results short path. I did notice someone in AL confirm my LP results. You never know. Worked the other VK9C the next night on 17M an hour earlier also LP! Whatever it takes! Moral of story, always check bands and paths you don't expect to work.

CU in the pileups (SP or LP)...

-73 Rick N4XMX

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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.



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DX PACKET FREQ.

W8ZF (2400) 145.63
K4KG (2400) 144.91
W4UCK(24&96) & ARCDX (2400) 145.65
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

sedxc.contesting.com

SEDXC REFLECTOR

sedxc@contesting.com

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