



Southeastern DX Club

W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB

May 2008

Presidents Report:

From the President....

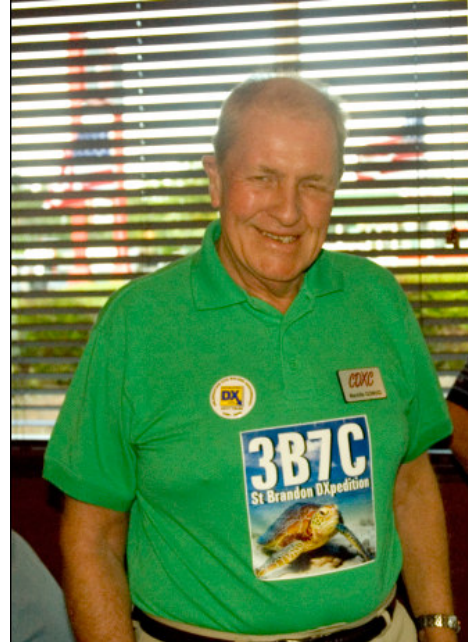
I understand the April get-together was well attended with about 65 SEDXC folks heard Neville, G3NUG speak. Apparently, it was a great show! This is the kind of thing we shall try to do more often in the future. It seems to me that one of the advantages of being a member of the premiere DX Club in the Southeast is that it is large enough and well known enough to draw some really world-class visitors. Not to mention the experienced DXers that are members of the club. And to prove my point....check out the SEDXC website (www.sedxc.org) under "members DXpeditions" and see the QSL cards from all the 135 DXCC entities that have been activated by SEDXC members. And that doesn't include my recent operations with a K2 and long wire from 9H3EE, IT9/K4UEE and MM0/K4UEE last month.

This year we have a large contingent going to the Dayton Hamvention as evidenced by our "sold out" Dayton DX dinner Thursday night. We have some famous guests coming to dinner including Ralph Fedor, K0IR, recent inductee into the CQ DX Hall of Fame, and Kimo Chun, KH7U. Not a DXpedition takes place in the Pacific that doesn't involve Kimo in one-way or another!

The May meeting, Wednesday the 21st, should be lots of fun. The SEDXC team that went to Costa Rica and used TI50DX in the ARRL Intl DX SSB contest will tell their story. The presentation will be given by some of the newest DXpeditioners that were on the trip and it will be interesting to hear the story from their perspective. BTW, there is talk of putting a SEDXC team elsewhere in the Caribbean next year.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Dayton and at the May club meeting the following week. Travel safely and have a great time!

73, Bob
K4UEE



Neville, G3NUG, was in fine form for the April program as he taught us more DXing secrets from the DX end. He got a good taste of Greek cooking, southern style, at the Marietta Diner prior to his lecture. I was particularly impressed with the accuracy of the propagation predictions the 3B7C team used to target frequencies and times for particular paths. They were using an Australian commercial propagation product. If anyone can recall the name of the program, please let me know. Neville joined a small, select group of DXers who have been made honorary members of the SEDXC and now has a very impressive certificate crafted by Chaz to prove it. Neville filled the Southern Poly auditorium, and we are indebted to Jim Studer and his wife for making use of the facility possible. I'd also like to thank club members on the NFARL and Kennehoochie repeaters for making the program known to a wider audience. We certainly saw some new faces as a result of their efforts as well as those of other club members on other repeaters.

Our May program will feature members of the TI50DX team describing their SEDXC 50th anniversary DXpedition to the wilds of Costa Rica. That will be followed in June by Larry Scheff's program on lightning protection, and in July by a program which combines details of HF mobiling in the fantastically successful—despite a scarcity of sunspots- 2008 Georgia QSO Party and some tips on how to install your favorite HF rig for a little DXing on the way to the beach this summer.

Vice President Report:

Vice President' Report—May 2008

Our ability to present programs which can't be missed depends greatly on tips on speakers and subjects which come from SEDXC members. PLEASE contact me with ideas!!!!

Field Day is almost upon us, and the N4N crew has already met several times to plan and get ready—including a meeting to test drive our network, get N1MM tuned up, etc. The N4N team would welcome any and all SEDXC members to drop by and operate. As K4UEE has said, a visit to a Field Day operation can be a real eye-opener to new hams as well as veterans. We'd like to get an idea of how many will be coming and when—though feel free to drop by anytime. I will be the focal point for letting the N4N team know—so drop me an email. N4N will also be featuring a GOTA station, and K4DLI will be teaching a course suitable for earning a Boy Scout Radio Merit badge. The course and station will be interesting to any young person wanting to learn more about ham radio and to operate for a while. Please talk this up with your friends and see if we can bring several young groups to the event. Again, I will be the contact for this effort, so email or phone me.

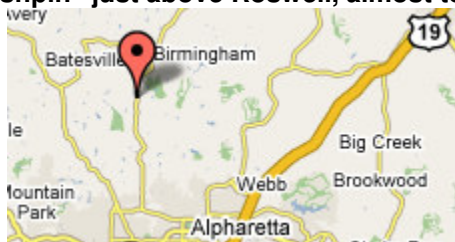
N4N

N4N Field Day Group
14840 Birmingham Hwy.
Alpharetta, GA
GOTA: YES
Talk-in: 147.105+ PL 107.9
Contact: David J Moss, KE4UW
678-467-1638
mossdj@hotmail.com

A map to the site can be found at

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>

It's the "pushpin" just above Roswell, almost to



Batesville.
73
Bob W2WG

Treasures Report:

Financial position as of month-end April

SEDXC Treasury:	\$4684.27
Packet Fund:	20.15
Total Balance:	\$4,704.42

I had a blast in the Georgia QSO party last month. In spite of some rough band conditions, I managed to beat last year's score (just barely). Outstanding job

from the rovers and portables this year. If you need a chuckle or three, check out the soapbox comments on the GQP web site.

<http://gqp.contesting.com/Soapbox.htm>

Dayton is upon us and once again I'm reminded of how out of shape I am. (Hey, round is a shape.) I'm trying to walk in the evenings to build up my stamina. I'll be "working" in fellow SEDXC member W4OA's Vibroplex booth. W3WL often peddles DVD's from the end of the booth and attracts a lot of interesting dxers so do stop by and rest if you need to. Also, AI NN4ZZ has said he will be in the bone yard with a couple of extra chairs. AI is generating a lot of buzz in the Steppir forums with his new Tiltplate. I'm anxious to see one up close. Of course, I expect to see you Thursday night at the Stockyard Inn for the annual SEDXC dinner that Harry W4KJ organized.

73 es DX
Mike, ND4V

Secretaries Report:

No report this month.

From the Editor:

Well, this month I slipped up and didn't get anyone that could supply a biography in time for the bulletin. I started to put in mine but-----I didn't want to bore everyone to death. I will try to get at it a little earlier next month.

We do have another Dixer who recently obtained his DXCC and has written an account of his obtaining this lofty goal. This month's account is by Clark Macaulay, KE4RQ.

A Tale of A New DXer's Trials and Triumph

It all started about five years ago when my wife and I, for the first time, went to Dayton on a trip to visit family. While there we went to the DX seminar and were amazed at the video that was shown. Don't recall the dxpedition but it was on a reef that normally was a sand bar with nothing growing on it. It was fascinating. Even though I have been licensed for 40 years, I had never worked any DX due to a variety of factors.

Fast forward a few years. I was getting ready to retire. So, I bought a good HF radio and installed a commercial off-center fed dipole in the trees behind my house. My CW speed was non-existent so I tried my hand at SSB. My first DX contact was in March 2006 and it was exciting! To think I had missed out on this aspect of being a ham was a little sad but not to worry! I was ready to make up for lost time with my 100w and a wire. I managed to make several more

contacts as a Little Pistol station and was content. Though I was retired from the corporate world I was a full time volunteer for an organization that kept me super busy so my operational hours were limited. I was a happy camper.

Then came Peter I 3Y0X in December 2006. Like many I was caught up in excitement after hearing Bob K4UEE talk about the planning and the rarity of this entity. No problem for me. So, I set aside different blocks of hours for operating and called all times of the day and night on multiple bands with no results. Try as I might, while others in Atlanta were making multiple contacts, I had not one. During that time several local hams gave me lots of really good advice on how to call and listen for the stations. At this point I had rebuilt my CW speed up to about 13 wpm. Since this was my first Dxpedition, I really didn't know how to approach getting the contact which leads me to Lesson #1

#1: Ask the local hams for advice on operational protocols! Many (I shall refrain listing calls because I will probably forget one) asked questions on what I was doing, offered suggestions, and encouraged me to keep at it. They (and I) were sure that I would get Peter I: everyone else was! Peter 1 was not to be in my log. While I was sure I had snagged them the online log said otherwise. I very disappointed. Did this mean that my station was somehow not up to working 100 countries? Or was it me?

One afternoon, as I was staring out my back yard looking at my beautiful antenna, something began to bother me. While the antenna was high enough above the ground in my back yard, relative to the south it was on the downside of a hill. My lot goes down from the street. Does that matter? I began to ask questions, read a lot, and even posted a query on a few reflectors. At this point I was introduced to a term that had somehow missed my comprehension: take off angle. It seems that due to being on the downside of the hill, in the direction of Peter 1 the TOA was probably 60% or worse. My signal was doing more to warm clouds than get to the south which leads me to Lesson #2

#2: Learn all you can about how antennas work and then learn it again! The best receiver and the most power money can buy will not make up for an antenna that doesn't get the signal where you want it. I still can't believe I made such a silly mistake but make it I did. That antenna soon replaced by a G5RV in a different direction favoring Europe and the South Pacific installed in a flat op configuration about 40 feet above the sloping back yard. I began to work more DX stations but found that 100w SSB was just not very competitive in many cases. I also noticed that many DX stations were on CW and not on SSB. If I was going to obtain DXCC it seemed that my CW proficiency needed to be improved a great deal. Many of these DX stations are fast CW ops which would take me listening for several minutes before I could

copy their call let alone send my own call. My third lesson learned is

#3: Develop a solid CW proficiency through practice and operating I used a code course on CD to get me back to 5wpm and then did some operating at to get it up to 10wpm. The best advice I received to get the speed up is to get on the air and just do it. This worked for me and has worked for countless others. I am amazed at some to the CW skills I have observed in SEDXC and what I have heard on the air. In many cases it has taken years to get there so I'm behind the power curve. To this day CW is my preferred mode. I find that the chances of making a contact in poor conditions are far better with CW with SSB. The whole idea of being proficient at 30wpm in a rag chew compels me to continue operating and inching up bit by bit (no pun intended).

Taking a look at my log book shows I really started getting into chasing DX in August 2006. That was when I tried my hand at my first contests. In October of 2007, a little over a year after getting serious about DXing I submitted my application for DXCC -Mixed. Not too bad for a modest station, new DXer, the sunspot cycle low, and limited operating hours! I have just submitted a 2nd application for DXCC -CW and am working on DXCC - Phone. Current confirmed country count is 153 and all with 100w and a wire.

If you are wondering if you can get DXCC with limited resources including time, I believe the answer is YES! I have received so much help and encouragement from the local hams and you can, too. Living in the Southeast is a prime location for getting 100 entities so go for it! If I can do it anybody can.
73 es gud dx de Clark ke4rq

Thanks Clark for this interesting account.

Anyone who has recently obtained their DXCC please let me know so we can recognize you for your achievement.

Tit Bits of Information:

Here is a site passed on by Joel, WA4HNL, that looks like it contains some good information. Check it out.

<http://www.ibiblio.org/kuphaldt/electricCircuits/>

This information on an up and coming DXpedition was passed on by Bill, W4ZV, on the TopBand reflector.

"The operation for Glorioso 2008 must be delayed for some weeks. The commandeer of the south zone of

the Indian ocean announced us due to the fact that important works of facilities will take place on the island. During two and a half months, at the beginning of June, shelters anti cyclonic will be built to protect the military personnel and some equipment for the weather station.

Due to the number of persons who will be on the island during the same period, we decided--with the military command of force of the south zone of the Indian ocean--to do this DXpédition when these works will be ended.

The exact dates will be define according to the operational occupation of the military transport in this region but we hope to accomplish this operation to the end of September or the beginning of October.

This leaves us the time to improve our preparations and, we thank you all those who contribute to the realization of this plan and firstly the military authorities of the Reunion island and our financial and equipment sponsors."

This may not be all bad, as hopefully it may present better conditions for 160-meters.

Here is another little bit of information for those who use Black Electrical Tape to hold feed lines to tower legs and the boom of their Yagi antennas. First, if you use a Black tywrap, to hold the cable in place, and cover it with the Black tape to protect it from Ultra Violet Radiation it will last a long time. When you wrap the tape make about 3 passes around the tower leg or boom and stretch the tape. On the last pass around DONOT stretch the tape. Instead, pull out enough to make a complete turn and CUT the tape with scissors, DO NOT tare the tape. You want a clean, smooth end to the tape. Wrap this around the leg or boom without tension and smooth the end and edges down. This will prevent the adhesive on the tape from being under tension and causing it to slip and eventually come loose and "Flag" and work itself loose. If you want to be sure it will never come loose coat the end of the tape, after it is smoothed out, with some liquid tape along the end and edge for about 1-inch. This will make a seal that will not let water work in under the tape and cause it to come loose.

Well, that's about it for this month. Be sure to come to the meeting to hear about the TI50DX Operation and hear all about it from the people who were there. Just look at the fine crew on the top of the next column.



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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+

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www.sedxc.org

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