



Bulletin



January 2014

From the Pres

Norm WA4ZXV

Hello SEDXC!

It's been a couple of busy weeks here at WA4ZXV. First, I visited Pigeon Forge to attend a SERA meeting. Next there were final preparations for GARS TechFest. Wow, both are now over.

Results, you ask? I learned a lot about Repeater coordination, and TechFest was a hit again! For those of you that haven't attended TechFest, it's a great get together in the middle of a slow period of Hamfests. Not your typical hamfest, there is no retail sales, a small tailgate activity in the parking lot if the weather allows, and several local clubs set up exhibits and shared their knowledge and experiences about amateur radio modes, methods, techniques. There are generally about 20 exhibits and this year was no exception. There is plenty of room for sitting and chatting with friends or making new friends. And the icing on the cake, it's free and they feed you lunch. So if you didn't make it next year, try to make it next...

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Veep's Report

Wey K8EAB

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

The 2013 Holiday Party took the place of the December meeting. The decorating committee did a great job, and the caterer fed more than 40 of us very well.

"Thank You!" to all whose efforts made it possible for this event to take place.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

[The Program](#)

SEDXC member Ann Santos-WA1S will tell us about her recent adventures with the T33A Team that activated Banaba Island. Details are here: t33a.com/



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Dan's Column (KB6NU)

Protect your gear from ESD

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test & Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.
- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs (http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

73, Dan KB6NU ❖

Pres (cont.)

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year. Yes. SEDXC was well represented. Thanks Bill.

There are a lot of funding requests for help with DX operations in the mill. I guess that means there's a lot of good DX on the horizon. We'll be discussing several requests at the meetings. If you have questions, please pass them on. The executive committee will be making some recommendations. We'll soon be working on a new budget year, so some requests may need to be held until we refill the kitty.

Don't miss the January meeting: DXpeditioning from an YL's Perspective, presented by Ann Santos, WA1S. ❖

Activities Chairman

Bill AA40C

The Dalton Hamfest is February 22, 2014. It's the first of the year, so drag out the pocket book and head to Dalton. It's always a good hamfest and is guaranteed to get your juices flowing. Information is at <http://daltonhamfest.com>. The SEDXC will have a table set up so you can come by and say hello, pay your annual dues, or just hang out!! See you there. ❖

Treasurer's Report

Mike ND4V

RECEIPTS	
Christmas Party/Dues	1,120.15
DISBURSEMENTS	
Hays Insurance	(200.00)
Great Lakes Plaques	(34.00)
Gift Card for Christmas Party	(55.95)
St. Michael	(450.00)
Norm - paper/wine/beer	(169.26)
Caterer	(719.15)
NET ACTIVITY IN December	(508.21)
Beginning Balance	8,404.28
Ending Balance	\$ 7,896.07

We have several funding requests. Most will be deferred until the new fiscal year. We do have one urgent request from FT5ZM that will be discussed at the meeting on Thursday. ❖

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Club Communications

SEDXC Webpage: www.sedxc.org

SEDXC Chat Room: details on webpage

SEDXC Reflector: details on webpage

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Wey's World

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February Meeting sedxc.org/february14.htm

At our February 2014 meeting, Tom Harrell-N4XP will lead a team of presenters to tell us about C82DX – Mozambique. Details are here: c82dx.com



L-R: Wey K8EAB, Rusty W6OAT, Tad WF4W, Charlie NF4A, Tom N4XP, and Bill N4NX. Rusty Epps was a founding member of the SEDXC

March Meeting sedxc.org/march14.htm

Joe Blackwell-AA4NN will tell us all about the K9W-Wake Atoll DXpedition that almost didn't happen.

April Meeting sedxc.org/april14.htm

Bob Allphin-K4UEE will tell our members how much he and the FT5ZM team enjoyed 18 days at sea on board the M.V. Braveheart as they put Amsterdam Island on the air.

Member assistance in contacting potential meeting speakers is always welcomed!

HOW'S DX?

Several DXpeditions will be on the air in January and into the first part of February. I like to focus on rare or special operations that have large teams of experienced operators. There are many, many more individual operator and holiday or vacation style DXpedition operations listed.

FOR SUMMARIES OF ALL DXPEDITIONS: ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html

Soviet Military Order of Malta (1A0KM)



A huge EU team was on the air from January 2 – 7.

Details are here:

<http://dx-world.net/2014/1a0km-sovereign-military-order-of-malta/>

Amsterdam Island (FT5ZM)



Lots of SEDXC members are on the trip to this very rare DXCC entity. Operations are expected to be for up to 18 days between the dates of January 24 and February 20 of 2014. Landing, set-up, and take down are included in those 18 days.

Latest news updates here:

<http://www.ft5zm.com>

A comment on DXpedition funding by the SEDXC

The Bylaws of the SEDXC limit the funds available for expedition funding to 50% of the amount of money in our bank account as of the beginning of the fiscal year. That date is July 1st. This is also the renewal date for club membership dues. I realize it human nature for most folks to delay dues payment until the last minute or even a month or two late, but this means that SEDXC may be unable to fund some expeditions as we progress through the fiscal year.

Expeditions to rare DX entities get more expensive each year. The annual individual membership amount of \$20 is one of the more reasonable expenses most of us ever incur in our hobby, so please consider renewing your membership before the end of the fiscal year so that funds available for contributions to DXpeditions are maximized.

Happy New Year, 73, and Good DX!

Wey K8EAB

SEDXC DXpedition Funding Request

A special request from FT5ZM will be discussed at the January meeting. Since they are currently on their way to the Island and are currently underfunded, their request needs to be considered at this time.