



Bulletin



January 2019

From the Pres



Dick K5TF

Happy New Year (or as they say on the bands, HNY) to everyone. May 2019 bring sunspots, higher flux numbers, and ATNOs. We are off and running for the new year with Show and Tell for our January 17th meeting; an exciting new 6 Meter DX Program by Mike Greenway K4PI on February 21; and, The Good, the Bad, and How to keep a QSL Manager Happy by Tom Harrell N4XP on March 21st. Let me know if you have any suggestions or wishes for programs.

73 es gud DX,

Dick K5TF ❖

This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: **Thursday January 17th @ 7:30 PM**

Location: Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital

Details at www.sedxc.org



Program Title: **Member Show-and-Tell**

This is a perennial favorite and never fails to entertain. It's a chance to share a story, a favorite QSL, recent award, homebrew project, treasure from Dayton, trip you are planning, mystery parts from the junkbox, radio-related community service project, or anything else you want to share.

Around the Shack

de N4GG/4



My Dream 160 Antenna including Rotating Shack

As the holidays fade and the New Year begins, I have been wondering what to write about. Winter is the time for low band DXing and my thoughts naturally turn to 160 meters, as they do every winter. What can I do to improve my 160 signal? I'm tired of half-measures and putting down more radials, maybe I should go "all-in"

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Treasurer's Journal

Checkbook Balance as of October 31, 2018: \$9,887.

73,

Jeff K1ZN ❖

Announcements



When: January 26, 2019; 9AM – 2 PM

Where: Gwinnett Medical Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway (GA-120), Lawrenceville, GA 40046

Info: www.techfest.info

Learning CW



Mike K4PI

I read Hal's article on learning CW last month but I have to take issue with it. Sorry, Hal. Back in the day when I tried to learn CW there was an Ameco CW course using 78 rpm vinyl records that taught you at around 6 WPM as the Novice code test was 5 WPM. I wore those records out practicing. I did pass the test after a lot of practice. I was really struggling when I got on the air to copy. Two bad things I did, all the time I was learning to copy, was practicing sending. I could send like the wind on a straight key but my copying was lacking. HI. The second thing I did wrong was to try and memorize the letters and numbers by the number of dots and dashes. I cannot stress this enough, DO NOT MEMORIZE THE NUMBER OF DOTS AND DASHES. You want to learn the sound of the characters. If you can start off NOT knowing what

any Morse characters are by the number of dots and dashes you are miles ahead.

It took me a while to ever reach 13 WPM for the General exam, which I think was due to the way I originally learned to copy at 5 WPM. I did finally make it up to 20 wpm for the Extra but I think I could have bypassed a lot of the struggles by using a course that my wife used as few years ago. She wanted to see if she could pass the test for all the ham tickets when we had to do CW for all classes.

I was very impressed with the course as I would listen to her practice. When you have completed the course you are at a very nice speed around 21 WPM which you can build on if you want to go faster. You can buy the course on Amazon and there are other places that probably have it:

https://www.amazon.com/High-Speed-Code-0-21-WPM/dp/1944739912/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1546010568&sr=8-2&keywords=jerry+ziliak. The High Speed CW 0-21 WPM course is the one to start with. Jerry has another course for moving to higher speeds with head copy.

Like learning another language, you have to put in the time and work. Daily practice of short periods is required instead of cramming one day and then being a week before you get back to practice. So instead of taking years to reach 20 WPM in my case you can reduce that to months. PLEASE DO NOT practice your sending until you are up to full speed copying. Sending to yourself does not help in learning to copy in my opinion. Good luck.

Mike K4PI ❖

Articles Needed for the Bulletin

In the past few issues, you have seen some great articles from our membership. This month we have Hal's continuing series on *Around the Shack*, last month ended a two-part fascinating *My Story* by Wey K8EAB, and this month we have an article by Mike K4PI.

The amount of knowledge in the SEDXC is amazing and covers a lot of topics that run the gamut in amateur radio. What do you know that you would like to share with the members? C'mon—don't be bashful. Send me something and together we can make the Bulletin more than just a few pages.

Clark WU4B ❖

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with a 160 meter antenna that will make me the loudest station on the band.

Living in a covenant restricted neighborhood, I spend a lot of mental energy dreaming up wire antenna arrays and looking skyward, with envy, at towers, tall light poles, balloons, kites and construction cranes. Hey, wait a minute – construction cranes!

A construction crane would make an ideal boom for a 160 meter Yagi. The height and boom length on the big ones are just right. A director could be put out front, and a reflector to the rear. The “traveler” that runs along the boom could hold the driven element and be moved back and forth to peak up front-to-back or forward gain. This makes great sense – to me. A three element Yagi on 160 meters should do well.

A quick check of my deed restrictions turned up nothing prohibiting construction cranes on the property, unless someone wanted to push the “nuisance” clause. It feels like a winner.

My crane project offers the ability to blaze new paths. How many shacks rotate? That control cab way up there at the top of the crane looks like the perfect place for my shack. The feedline will be nice and short. Those cabs are air conditioned and have plenty of power, plus room for all the gear I will need. Best of all, the shack rotates with the antenna, so all I need for pointing is a Boy Scout compass. How great it will be to actually look out the front windows in the direction of radiation. Ill bet you can almost see Europe from up there. The climb up the ladder could be a challenge; maybe some models have elevators?

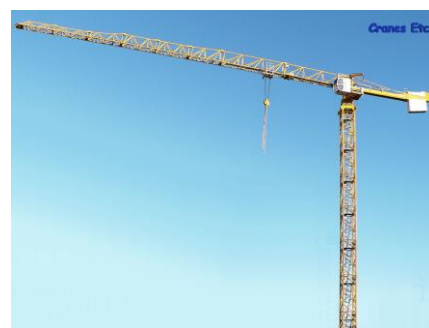


Figure 1. The N4GG three element 160 meter Yagi, prior to outfitting and relocation to the final site. I may need some helpers for the move.

Continued on next page

Around the Shack (cont.)



Figure 2. A close-up of the rotating shack. It has a nice stiff 480VAC 3 phase power system.

Some ancillary equipment will be needed for safe and efficient operation. Working the morning grey line may require some rear-view mirrors, so I can get the rear of the shack aligned with the sunrise. If I interlace some elements for the higher HF bands, I should be able to open any band from up there, but I will need a good pair of sunglasses and some sunscreen when I point my dream Yagi, complete with rotating shack, into the rising sun.

What's your dream antenna?

73,

Hal N4GG/4 ❖

DXpedition Funding Requests
None at this time--Editor