



# Bulletin



January 2020

## From the Prez



Dick K5TF

Here's wishing everyone a enjoyable New Year of DXing on our currently very active lower HF bands, and hopefully improving higher HF bands with the expected start of Solar Cycle 25 in the Spring. For the past couple of days the solar flux index has risen from 67 to 73, and there are currently 11 sunspots reported. So let's keep our fingers crossed that we are truly bottoming out of Cycle 24 and seeing the indications that Cycle 25 is about to begin.

In addition to listening, listening, and listening for the elusive DX, there is watching your DX reflector(s) and reverse beacon(s) of choice, and keeping informed with your favorite DX bulletin(s). All of these have been quite productive for me during the first week of 2020 as I embark on yet another CQ DX Marathon ([www.dxmarathon.com](http://www.dxmarathon.com)).

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## This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: **Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup>** @ 7:30 PM

Location: Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital

Details at [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)



**Program Title:** Things To Do  
When There Are No Sunspots  
**Speaker:** Dr. John Kludt, K4SQC

## VP's Corner



Mike ND4V

Happy New DX Year to all!

At the club meeting this month Dr. John Kludt K4SQC will give us guidance on "Things to do when there are no Sunspots; ISS, SSTV, Research Contributions". John is actively involved with AMSAT and the local school efforts to talk to the International Space Station.

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## From The Prez (cont.)

“Designed to promote DXing activity throughout the year rather than only on contest weekends and during DXpeditions” (re: CQ Magazine), I find this to be an excellent way to be active and interested in DX, especially in the current propagation. Year to date 1/9/20, 65 countries and 19 zones on 6 bands are in my log. Give it a try, you’ll like it!



A great evening was enjoyed by all who attended our 2019 Holiday Dinner last month held again at the 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Restaurant in Chamblee. A well-deserved thank you to the 57<sup>th</sup> for the fine Desert Buffet and service, and to Vaden McDonald NN4K, SEDXC member and President of CWOps for his very interesting talk about the club and upcoming (now underway) 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. And, a big thanks to Ham Radio Outlet Atlanta for their donation of a gift certificate which was won by Kathy Kennedy, XYL of Hal N4GG.

Our support continues in various ways for Bill Barr N4NX (and Leah and family) who continues in recovery and rehabilitation at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville following a stroke on December 17<sup>th</sup>. You can follow Bill’s recovery through [www.caringbridge.org/visit/billbarr](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/billbarr). Please give serious consideration to making a donation to this wonderful information website.

See you all at our January meeting next Thursday.

73,

Dick K5TF❖

## Around the Shack

de N4GG



### Coax – Which Type?

From novice days (1961) through early adulthood I couldn’t rub two nickels together. Choosing among coax options was easy – whatever someone would give me, or I could get for pennies from a battered cardboard box under a flea market table was “just fine.” At the time, I thought people gave away coax with the shield turned black because black shields were a pain to solder to. I scraped the black oxidation off a lot of coax, for many years, until I had a little money and a little knowledge. The knowledge part: Coax with a black shield has seen a lot of water intrusion and is very, very lossy.

Even if you had some money and knowledge in the 60s and 70s, you were likely using RG-8 or RG-58 for 50 ohm coax and RG-11 or RG-59 for 75 ohms. Even in those days there were other choices, and sub-choices such as RG-8A and RG-8/U, but hardly anyone paid any attention to the details. RG-8 was RG-8. If you had really BIG BUX and BIG kilowatts you used RG-17.

The history of coax is a great subject – but not for this month’s column. Read the [Wiki on coax](#) – it’s an interesting story. Suffice it to say coax has changed a lot over the years and what’s available now far surpasses what was available 50 years ago. The invention of foam dielectric enabled lower loss and lower weight for coax of the same diameter as the coax from the good-old-days. The outer jacket material has improved too.

Today, RG-213 and RG-8X are the basic 50 ohm coax choices, but there are a lot of additional options. One I use a lot is Davis Bury-Flex. It is rated for direct burial – which I have never done intentionally, but I do have a lot laying on the ground in the woods behind the house and over the years the annual leaf and limb falling have buried a lot of it. It’s been out there for years – trouble free.

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## SEDXC OFFICERS

**President:** Dick Baxter, K5TF  
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**Vice President:** Mike Weathers, ND4V  
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**Secretary:** Paul Kelley, W4KLY  
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**Treasurer:** Jeffrey Cantor, K1ZN  
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**Activities:** Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV  
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## Appointed Positions

**SEDXC Bulletin Editor:** Clark Macaulay, WU4B  
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**Membership Committee Chairman**  
Bill Barr, N4NX  
[n4nx@arrl.net](mailto:n4nx@arrl.net)

**Webmaster:** Chaz cone, W4GKF  
[w4gkf@chazcone.com](mailto:w4gkf@chazcone.com)

## Club Communications

**SEDXC Webpage:** [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)

**SEDXC Chat Room:** details on webpage

**SEDXC Reflector:** details on webpage

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## VP Corner (cont.)

On **January 18**, the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society will sponsor another **Techfest**. Our activities manager, Norm WA4ZXV plans to have a table set up to promote the club. If you can spare a few minutes in the booth, your help will surely be appreciated. I'll be available to check cards for WAS, VUCC, and DXCC. Be sure to fill out and submit the online DXCC application. It will speed up the processing at HQ.

I have been reading Leah's posts regarding Bill Barr's, N4NX progress in rehab following his stroke. It seems Bill is tolerating rehab very well with the exception of hospital food. He is progressing slowly but progressing! Leah deserves a medal for her caregiver skills and advocacy on Bill's behalf. Follow along with the progress reports on [caringbridge.org](http://caringbridge.org).

If you have a program to recommend to the club or a topic of interest to you, please send me a note.

Dinner will be in the Piedmont Hospital cafeteria prior to meeting and some start gathering around 5:30. See you at the meeting – 7:30 in the Rich Auditorium.

73,

Mike ND4V ❖

## Treasurer's Journal

Balance on hand as of January 6, 2020:  
\$11,665.83

Checks Paid During Past Month:

- \$2834 – Fighter Group Restaurant for Holiday Party;
- \$124.93 to Paul Kelley for November Picnic Reimbursement;
- \$45.29 to Bank of America for New Order of Check Printing

73,

Jeff K1ZN ❖

## ***Around the Shack (cont.)***

I also use a good deal of Andrew Helix – the 3/8 inch size which directly accepts a PL-259. I bought a new 500 foot roll, at a bargain price, at a hamfest some years ago.

I recommend doing your homework before picking coax for your next antenna project. A good source of information is the coax tables provided by “The RF Connection” in Maryland. <https://rfconnection.com/belden-9913f7-cable/coaxial-cable/>

Tables can also be found in the ARRL Antenna Book, ARRL Handbook and in many places on the web. The best coax for a given application is often not “the best there is.” Here is a case in point:

Last month I hinted I picked a very old coax type: RG-58C/U for a new antenna I just put up. There is more loss in old-style RG-58 than there is in new foam dielectric RG8-X, so why did I do that? The antenna is an 80 meter inverted vee, with a balun at the center supported by a tree – about 90 feet above the ground. From the balun to the ground, the coax had to support itself – without stretching. The difference in loss between RG-8X and RG-58 at 3.5 MHz wasn’t enough to care about – but 90 feet of RG-8/X hanging straight down will stretch. The coax, its outer jacket and the foam dielectric thin as it stretches over time. That changes the characteristic impedance – a little – which I did not care about, but significantly reduces the power handling ability of the coax – and that I do care about (read: 1500 watts). Solar heating and RF heating contribute to the stretching/thinning. Eventually foam dielectric coax used in this application might break or short.

Good-old-fashion RG-58C/U has a polyethylene dielectric that won’t stretch under any circumstances and a Type II jacket that also won’t stretch and will stand up to the weather. A few feet after the RG-58C/U makes it to the ground, I joined it to Davis Bury-Flex to complete the “on the ground” run to my backyard antenna switch.

I chose a coax type seldom used anymore, but it’s not “obsolete.” The key word is “chose.”

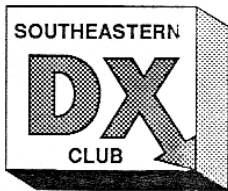
Choose your coax!

73,

Hal N4GG❖

## ***DXpedition Funding Request***

*None at this time--Editor*



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

*THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB*

January 1995

## NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, January 17th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House  
in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

## VEEP BEEPS

by Dick Bentley, K2UFT, VP

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**-Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV, President**

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FRIENDS!

Hope all your holidays left you well, safe, happy and not too much in debt. Let's take advantage of this new year to do all those good things we let slip by last year (like joining us for the SEDX Club meetings).

Have you ever wondered how our club got its start or who decided to start it? On page 3 is a reprint of the original letter sent to the 28 "known" DXers in Atlanta. 23 of these guys responded to form the first SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB in March of 1958.

At our next club meeting, please pick up a copy of the 1991 revised Constitution of our club. I will be at the meeting on January 17, I hope you will too. Oh yes, my thanks to Bruce Montgomery, W4BFR, for supplying the letter.

CUL, 73 Delaine - KM4FV

## NEWS FLASH!

The DXPO pins are here and looking good!!  
Only \$5.00 each!! Get 'em at the meeting!!

## 160 METER CONTEST COMING SOON!!!!

Please help the club out and participate!!  
Send in those scores!! Get those antennas up! Help  
beat Frankfort this year! If you need help, **CALL!**  
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.

Coming up - the operating event of the year for which the Southeastern DX Club has become famous - the CQWW 160 Test, CW portion the end of this month, January 27 (Friday night) through January 29. Two years ago we beat up the Frankford Radio Club big time - that was the year many stations were heard to comment that it seemed like there were very few stations that WEREN'T in Georgia! We can do it again.

Mike, K4PI asked that I urge you all to get on 160, whatever it takes - borrow a rig, short the center of the coax to the braid on whatever antenna you have available and load it up! Load up the dummy load. Mike will be on from Aruba (forgot to ask what call he would be using!), camping out in the 1840 - 1850 segment and eager for you to help keep him awake.

Vern and I will be on from ZF1A/ZF1DX trying to bust last year's record performance (for ZF that is.) We've both had our annual doses of sun, fun (hamming of course), conch fritters and rum punch, so this promises to be a serious effort.

I got so pumped up there, I forgot to talk about the program - Dave, K4JRB, will be our presenter, talking about the CQ160WW contest rules, techniques and about his winning and close to winning efforts in the contest. Dave is, of course, CQ Magazine's CQWW160 contest Chairman. There's bound to be a few more guests in the audience who'll be sharing their experiences in the contest as well. It promises to be a fun evening. Tuesday evening, January 17, 6:30 for those who want dinner in Hickory House, 7:30 for the meeting upstairs, all at the Days Inn, Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, just inside the Perimeter off Interstate 285.

See you there!

73 Dick, K2UFT

## TREASURER'S REPORT

-de John Tramontanis, N4TOL

Balance 11/30/94 (Checkbook)	\$2,441.12
Expenses:	
Bank Charges	10.34
Total Expenses	<u>10.34</u>
Balance Checking 8/30/94	<u>\$2,430.78</u>

Of this ending balance, \$770.00 is earmarked for the cluster fund, resulting from voluntary contributions from the club membership at renewal time. Also, \$119.00 has been donated by club members for the South Georgia DXpedition, the amount of which the club will match. Please help contribute to this cause by mail or at the next meeting as a donation of \$500.00 or more will allow for club recognition on the QSL card. As you all know it was very nice to see our logo on the 3YØ card. The club is also holding \$520.00 for 160 meter award plaques.

- 73 de N4TOL John

## CLUB ROSTER

Here is the club roster as of 1/1/95. This listing includes members in good standing who have paid their yearly dues which were due on 6/30/94. Please review this list for any errors or omissions, and please contact me with any changes that need to be made as soon as possible. I apologize if there are any errors that may exist, however, another roster will be published again later in the year. Please contact me with any corrections soon so that they will be included in the next printing of the roster. My phone number is 843-5253 office and 587-4623 home. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

73 de N4TOL John Tramontanis

## LOST & NOT FOUND

One of the members borrowed a bow & arrow from Neil Foster, KC4MJ. Whoever has it please call Neil at 449-3340 or 263-0700 and arrange a return. Txn.  
-Neil, KC4MJ

DID YOU SEE THIS IN THE JAN. '95 CQ?



# HAM RADIO

APRIL 7, 8, & 9, 1995  
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Atlanta, Georgia '95

To Benefit:  
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Guest Speakers For All Areas Of Interest Including:  
**Bob Grove — Monitoring Times**  
**Tony Deprato — WA4JQS**  
**John Fung-Loy — PA3CXC/D2**  
And Many, Many More.  
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(Text of first letter to form the SEDXC)

March 10, 1958

Dear Fellow DXCC Member:

In view of the growing trend to supplement regular radio clubs with specialized clubs, and in view of the tremendous growth and success enjoyed by these specialized clubs, a group of ten (10) DXCC members in the Greater Atlanta area, have drawn up the attached Constitution for the SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB.

The activities of this club is based on DX projects, and the club is not constituted as competition to any radio club whose activities are based on general projects and activities in Ham radio,

We wish to extend to you, an invitation to Charter Membership in this organization, and hope that you will accept the Charter Membership provisions Article 2, Section 5 of the attached Constitution of the club, and join with us in pooling our efforts that our area may be well represented among the DX activities of the World.

We will appreciate hearing from you as soon a possible so that we may all get together and become personally acquainted with any strangers in the group, and so that we may all participate in the selection of any out of town members to be invited to membership in the club.

Best DX and 73.

SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

J. Ralph Bean, W4FID  
General Secretary-Treasurer.

P.O. Box 10821  
Station A  
Atlanta 10, Georgia