



# Bulletin



January 2021

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## This Month's Meeting

**!! Please Note Time !!**

Date/Time: Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup> @ 8:30 PM

Location: Zoom Telemeeting

Info: [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)

Topic: Historical Figures in Ham Radio

Speaker: Mike K6MKF

## From the Prez



Dick K5TF

*(The notes below are from Jeff K1ZN)*

A Happy New Year to each of you and your families. We all look forward to a better 2021 and the elimination of the COVID-19 virus.

SEDXC members extend condolences to our President, Dick Baxter, K5TF, and his family, on the loss of his mother.

We also extend our best wishes to Mike Weathers, ND4V, for a speedy recovery.

Our January meeting is upcoming on January 21st, 2021. However, the meeting time for this meeting is 8:30PM EST, with the "doors" to Zoom opening at 8:00PM. The reason for this meeting time change is that we are holding a joint meeting with the Northern California DX Club ([NCDXC.org](http://NCDXC.org)).

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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NCDXC Secretary and past-president Mike Flowers K6MKF is the featured speaker. The topic: "Historical figures who helped make Ham Radio what it is today."

Mike offers the results of his Amateur Radio historical research with his presentation 'The Third Man'. The stories of people whose significant contributions to the origin of Amateur Radio and the ARRL were nearly lost. Now their stories can be told in considerable detail. Come learn what these folks did to help shape the hobby we all enjoy today - and you will be surprised!

Looking towards the February 18th meeting, our friend, Craig Thompson K9CT will discuss practical considerations for designing your next station or modifying our existing station from lessons learned from his experiences. That meeting will be held at the usual 7:00 PM EST time.

Please join with us via Zoom. Details are at [www.SEDXC.org](http://www.SEDXC.org).

Best 73s & GUD DX!

Jeff / K1ZN on behalf of Dick, K5TF

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## Around the Shack de N4GG



### Outdoor Connections

Here are a few recommendations from my Tips and Tricks memory bank.

Ground Rods: Ground rods are used for two purposes. One is as part of a lightning protection *system*, the other is to provide a ground connection for small signals. The later includes the ground needed at the base of a K9AY loop, at both ends of a Beverage or at the connection point of a radial field.

These comments are about small signal grounding, NOT LIGHTNING PROTECTION! Connecting to ground rods for lightning protection requires very low resistance connections to handle the large amount of energy contained in lightning strikes.

For small signal grounds, I use 4 and 8-foot copper-plated steel ground rods. I have found these at Home Depot sometimes and they are always available at electrical supply companies. For my K9AY loop, I've been using a 4-foot ground rod and it's proven to be effective. An 8-foot ground rod might be better depending on the characteristics of the ground local to the rod.

So, how might we connect to the top of a ground rod? Most of us reach into our junk box or head to the home goods store and buy a clamp made for that purpose. Those work fine – most of the time. I have had them come loose over time however and sometimes corrode due to dissimilar metals. The good ones are all brass with brass screws. The junk ones are poor quality brass (think pot metal) with zinc-plated screws. Those are *guaranteed* to fail over time.

My solution: Solder a wire to the top of the ground rod. That sounds difficult to do and it is if the rod is already in the ground. Ground rods are efficient heat sinks and resist getting hot enough to solder to.

Soldering a wire onto a ground rod pre-installation is easier - while the ground rod is on a workbench. With a wire brush, sandpaper, or a wire wheel on a bench grinder (my method), shine the end of the ground rod nice and bright. Wrap 3 or 4 turns of the wire of your choice (I use #14 house wire for my K9AY loop connection) and solder. Even when not in the ground, a ground rod is a good heat sink. You will need a lot of heat. Soldering pencils and irons are out. A propane or butane torch is the tool of choice.



The photo left shows the ground rod at the base of my K9AY loop. The wire was soldered to the top of the rod 15 years ago and appears to have many years of life left. The connection was made with typical 60/40 lead-tin solder.

Outdoor connections: Outdoor lead-tin solder connections do deteriorate slowly above ground, and quickly in the ground (think buried radials). In the case of buried connections, silver soldering is usually recommended, but there is an alternate method described below. Silver soldering requires higher temperature than what's required for lead-tin solder. It's practical for *wires* if you have learned silver soldering techniques and have a hot torch, but it's impractical to silver solder to a ground rod with a homeowner's propane torch. At that point, a first-rate clamp may be your best choice. Stainless steel hose clamps work too.

For wire connections above and in-ground (not ground rods) there is a simple alternative to soldering that we can borrow from lawn sprinkler companies. Photo right shows a red wire nut and a tube filled with grease. The tube includes an end cap that clicks shut. Simply twisting wires together and inserting them into the grease tube works fine. Sprinkler control wires are nearly always done this way and seem to last forever - underground. The wires are not soldered; they are simply twisted together.

You can go a step further and use a wire nut loaded with grease to connect wires together, and place that inside the grease filled tube. For above ground connections you can just use a wire nut filled with grease and skip the grease filled tube. At N4GG I have several remote antenna switch control cable wires twisted together using grease filled wire nuts, sitting out in the open. They have been trouble-free for 15 years. I have them oriented so the wires face down, preventing rain from going straight into the wire nut.



The grease filled tubes are available from Amazon and are called "Waterproof outdoor wire splices." I have also seen them at Home Depot and Lowes.

73 es gud DX!

Hal N4GG ❖

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## Treasurer's Journal

Jeff K1ZN

Balance (January 14, 2021): \$15,799.83

In recognition of his dedication and devotion to our hobby and in particular DXing, the Southeastern DX Club would like to play a Memorial Brick on the ARRL HQ SK Walkway for David J. Johnson, K4SSU. A vote for this action to be held at the Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 Zoom Meeting.

73,

Jeff K1ZN ❖

## Antenna Tip

*Phil K3UT*

For years I have been tying the supporting ropes/halyards of my antennas to trees, wrapping a rope around the trunk and then tying a knot. Or I've driven a stake into the ground, a la Hal Kennedy.

Yesterday I stopped by a marine supply store - West Marine - and bought an 8 inch nylon cleat and a couple of three inch stainless steel screws. Total cost \$4.50. I screwed the cleat to the trunk of a tree or to the fascia board of a soffit and had a great, and adjustable, tie off to a supporting rope.



73,

**Phil K3UT** ❖

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# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB

January 1996

## NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, Jan. 16th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL, President**

I hope everybody had a nice fruitful holiday season without too much leftover fruitcake. I got a new mast and put up an A3WS with 30 meter add-on kit over the holidays. The mast is 1.5 inch O.D. with 1/4" wall thickness..I was stunned to see how much it flexes with the A3WS and 2 meter antenna on it. Actually, I'm a little concerned. If any of you want to make me feel better, tell me it's just fine, supposed to flex. If you want to ruin my week...

VKØWH has been spotted recently on 7040 and is also working 14,240. His CW is reportedly a bit slow and he's running full QSOs, so this won't be easy. My work schedule has kept me from working him; I can't seem to get up at 4 AM and look for him! Perhaps some of you bigger guns could grab him while I'm busy. That may make it a bit easier for me when I'm ready!

The CQWW 160 CW contest is almost upon us. Those of you having trouble putting up an antenna, come to the next meeting and let's see if we can arrange some help for you. Even if you only work the locals, or the club members, you'll be helping our club score considerably. No matter how small your score seems, be sure to TURN IN THOSE LOGS! You can be sure the Frankford Radio Club does it (just look at last year's results) and I'm getting a bit tired of hearing those folks beat their chests and brag about the FRC on the internet. With many fewer members, I think we can still give them a run for their money. Let's try it.

Hope to see you on Tuesday.

73, Steve, KR4DL

## FROM THE VP

by Sonny Marsh, KE4LDJ, VP

Since the World Radiosport Team Championship will be coming up in a few months, I thought it would be interesting to devote this month's program to the contest.

We will show a video called "Passport to Friendship - The Race for Radio Gold." I believe the contest had its beginning in 1990 and this video covers that initial contest. Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

-73, Sonny, KE4LDJ

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**-Nancy Draheim, NK4U**

Balance 11/30/95 (Checkbook)	<u>\$2471.26</u>
Income:	<u>\$218.00</u>
Expenses:	
Nov. Newsletter	76.00
Dec. Newsletter	87.37
QSL Outgoing Buro	15.97
Tres. Briefcase	41.96
Packet Cluster	206.65
Bank Charges	0.15
Total Expenses	428.10
Balance Checking 12/31/95	<u>\$2261.16</u>

Packet Cluster funds are not from general funds but are donated for that purpose. Funds collected for the Paul Wolfe, AD4NQ fund are \$390 and will be reported next month. Hope evryone had a really great holiday season and fantastic 1996. May those sun spots hurry up and increase!

73, Nancy NK4U

## MINUTES, SEDXC MEETING 12/19/95

**-Buddy Harrell, W4OUN, Sec.**

### MINUTES FROM DECEMBER, 1995 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 PM. After the usual round of introductions, everyone was requested to sign the attendance list. It was motioned, seconded, and approved that the minutes from the last meeting be accepted.

**OLD BUSINESS:** In response to questions during the previous meeting, there was discussion of the Packet Cluster fund and its uses. The fund currently is \$1120 and was originally set up in response to a request from Jim Altman, N4UCK. It has been supported by separate donations from SEDXC members and is not a part of the general club treasury. Some of its uses in the past have been to assist in reengineering the Atlanta backbone, setup the ARCDX node, and the equipment on the FOX tower. Requests for assistance from packet cluster sysops would be considered based on their merits.

A fund has been established in memory of Silent Key AD4NQ who died in a tower related accident. Donations will be collected for another month and then it will be put to a vote concerning the extent of a matching club contribution.

The former membership chairman is no longer active within the club. Paul, KR4UJ was nominated and elected new membership chairman.

A requirement of the constitution and by-laws is that a membership roster must be published and distributed by the club officers within 60 days of taking office. This was not done, but the process is under way to correct the situation and get an updated membership roster out.

It was announced that John Laney, K4BAI was selected as WRTC captain for the SEDXC.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Phil, W4GTS, advised that John, AD4ZH, and Charles Turner were planning on giving a license class beginning January 24 in the IBM building at Windy Hill / Powers Ferry. It is a 10-week class. For additional information, call John at 404.843.8405 (H) or 770.715.3779 (W).

Mike, K4PI is going to Aruba for the 160 Meter contest and needs all the contacts we can provide. Mike computes that each contact is worth about 8000 points toward the end of a contest. More will be

discussed concerning the 160M contest at the next club meeting.

It was reported AA4II is a SK. Also, ED, K4SB underwent bypass surgery and is recovering at the hospital in Birmingham.

The 610-V form is now available.

**OTHER:** After Xmas gifts were exchanged, W4QO presented a program on his activity promoting Ham Radio within the schools and also information on QRP operating. Jim, thanks for the program and all your effort promoting ham radio.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 PM.

73 & DX, Buddy, W4OUN

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## BEEPS DE K2UFT

**-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director**

January - time to get geared up for the CQWW - 160 Test at the end of the month. Get on the air, one way or another, and don't forget to submit your scores to CQ Magazine.

Be sure and give Mike, P49I some points. His sunset will be around 2330Z and at last report he was expecting to be calling CQ between 1830 and 1850. He expects competition on the island, so be sure its P49I that you work!

Kioshi, AE4EZ, has proposed that the SEDX Club sponsor an achievement award for working members of our club. Mike, K4PI, has an historical data base of members running back to the inception of the club which we hope to use to qualify applicant's past QSO's with club members. Assuming fellow club officers approve of the idea, more details at our next meeting. Perhaps this idea will generate more interest than the infamous "Band of the Month."

See you at the next meeting.

-73 Dick, K2UFT

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## CONTESTS AND SEDXC

-Ron, AB4RU

As many of you know, the CQ 160 meter contest will be coming up the last weekend of January and February. The January Contest will be CW and February will be SSB. The SEDXC is a large club and has a good chance to turn in a high club score.

It is important for every member to make as many points as possible and turn in your logs to Dave Thompson, K4JRB. No matter how small the score is, it will add up with several others. The SEDXC is as much part a contest club as it is a DX club. We have several members that are very dedicated to the SEDXC and support this.

I am open for suggestions on how we can improve our efforts in the club competition, not only in the 160 meter test but in the other various contest, in 1996. The club sponsor's a great plaque program for its members but there still seems to be a lack of motivation.

Some suggestions I have already received are, a separate meeting for the contesters, same night as the SEDXC meeting. Possibly a training program for the guys that would like to improve their skills in contesting, like computer logging and operating technique.

More information concerning contest and its members in the Newsletter. I am sure there will be others, which I will try to compile and prepare a summary for evaluation later. Let me hear your comments and suggestions concerning the growth of the SEDXC as a contest club in 1996.

I can be reached at AB4RU@AOL.COM or via the packet cluster. Snail mail still works to. Ron Hooper 2953 Hy 51 South, Lula Georgia, 30554. Phone 706-677-2800 after 5 pm on weekdays.

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### FROM THE INTERNET

*(This was found wandering around -ed)*

There has been much commentary recently about the relative merits of various logging programs. As a reasonably active DXer, I have tried (and rejected) several of the more widely accepted programs as being too 'general purpose', and not totally applicable to 'serious DXing'. Currently, I use a windows based program called 'Logger', authored by N6BFM/

9K2ZZ, which contains most of the features that I have found lacking in other programs I have tried.

Some of the more important features are as follows:

- a) The entry of a callsign of two letters in length is not permitted.
- b) The entry of the following names 'Sir', 'Doctor', 'Your Highness', 'Monk', 'Father', 'Brother', are not permitted.
- c) Signal reports of 'One Two Three By One Two Three Over Over' are not permitted.
- d) QSL card management is excellent. Receipt of the QSL cards into the database automatically sends a DX Cluster message (Announce/Full) stating QSL card received for <callsign>, QSO on <DD-MMM-YYY>, quick turnaround.'
- e) The DX cluster interface includes up to 65K possible additional filter options. The sample filters provided as reference, automatically exclude DX spots of the 'Ten Least Needed' on 20M SSB, all spots on 14226.5 and 14247, and any DX spots that contain the text (case insensitive) 'list' or 'net'.

Additionally, the sample filters exclude DX spots with the text 'Went QRT' ( case insensitive).

- f) The built in radio control has the capability of (optionally) auto-announcing DX spots on the wrong frequency, with an incorrect callsign (ver. 3.0 will be enhanced to include the option of auto-announcing DX Spots on the wrong band).
- g) The built in CW/RTTY/AMTOR/Voice Keyer/etc. features include 270 user-programmable message sequences. Filters are built in that remove the following text strings - 'Please Copy', 'When last heard', 'Report on the next over', 'Good contact', 'Back to Net', 'Over Over', 'Who's the DX?', 'What Frequency is he listening on?', 'What's your QSL route and possibly others that I haven't yet tried.

This program is a 'Must try' for any DXer. :-)  
73, Jim Wilson - W4MWT E-mail:w4mwt@avana.net

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### MR. LOW BAND SEZ...

-Mike Greenway, K4PI

A PLEA FOR HELP! I plan to be at P49I for the CQWW 160 M CW 'test. I am begging for QSOs in the test. Every QSO counts! I was down to #3 last year due to USA QSOs being down. If you have a friend on 160 pass the info. Please keep me on the packet screen.

-73 Mike K4PI/P49I