



# Bulletin



January 2023

Founded In 1958

## Our Next Meeting & Speaker

**Date & Time:** January 19, 2023, 7:00 PM

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Topic:** *Sable Island, CY0S*  
Dan Sullivan, W4DKS



Dan W4DKS, a veteran DXer, is our featured speaker for the first SEDXC meeting of 2023. He will preview challenges and plans for activating Sable Island for what could be the last DXpedition there for many years to come.

## From the Prez *(de Chuck Catledge, AE4CW)*



Fellow DXers, welcome to the SEDXC January 2023 Bulletin!

And welcome to a brand-new year of DXing, too! 2022 closed with more DX in our logs than we've seen since 2014. The December observed solar flux hit an average of 148, and the January solar flux is taking off like a rocket, hitting 199 on January 10th. Let's hope that these trends continue well into 2023 and beyond!

Who could have imagined that a one-man DXpedition with very limited antennas, howling winds and operating restrictions on an island 10,000 miles away in the deep southern Indian ocean (that's 14,000 miles long path) would have logged over 18,000 Q's as of January 10th. I think Thierry F6CUK, operating as FT8WW on Crozet Island will go down in history as one of our most remarkable DXpeditioners. He has clearance for three weeks of HF operation with an end date of January 26th which

may keep the door open for more ATNOs and band fills! His final operating date is unclear. This may be our last chance for Crozet for many years! Daily updates are available on this link to DX World: [FT8WW-Crozet Island](#).

By the time you see this Bulletin, the DXpedition to the second most wanted entity in the world, 3Y0J Bouvet, will be on the sailboat “Marama”, having set sail from Port Stanley on the Falkland Islands on or about January 14th. The sailing time to Bouvet is estimated to be between eleven to fourteen days. Getting ashore and setting up camp will add a few days before they go QRV. Without a doubt this is a groundbreaking DXpedition. From using a sailboat for travel, deploying unmanned zodiacs to bring the cargo on shore and operating eight stations 24/7 with dual human operation of FT8 on four stations running SO2R (the team focus is CW and SSB; FT8 is secondary). ATNOs will be in high demand! The QSO goal is 200,000 Qs. Following the team’s progress from now to the last Q and weighing anchor will be a thrill! Daily updates are available on this link to DX World: [3Y0J-Bouvet Island](#)

The CQ DX Marathon for 2022 is finished, and the SEDXC played a major role as a club/team! Thirty-four SEDXC members submitted a score, and our estimate is that our combined club score will put our club in the top 10 and perhaps even higher. This is our first attempt in submitting a combined club score; we are very pleased that such a large number of our members joined the SEDXC Marathon team! We are still tabulating the individual scores in the various classes, bands and modes and determining the winners who will receive plaques recognizing their accomplishments. A huge “Thank You” goes to Andy Goss (AA5JF) who proposed the idea of the Marathon last December as a follow-on to the “100 Watts and a Wire” operating event. Andy has been our guide and encouragement throughout the year including bringing us to a very successful conclusion. Thanks again Andy!!!

The SEDXC Board unanimously voted that the SEDXC apply for Internal Revenue Service 501c3 status which will provide the club financial advantages in accepting donations. The Treasurer will describe the recommendation during the January club meeting and the President will call for a discussion and vote on the proposal.

73 es gud DX,

*Chuck, AE4CW*



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## Dave Thompson, K4JRB *(de Chuck Catledge, AE4CW)*



Our friend and fellow DXer, Dave Thompson (K4JRB), is now a Silent Key (SK). Dave passed away on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He had been ill for some time.

Dave was a member of SEDXC for decades and was an avid DXer and Contester. We warmly referred to Dave as SEDXC's "Informal Historian"; he saw the Club grow and change over the years, and actively participated as a club officer, as well as volunteering for countless projects and initiatives.

The impact a man makes on his world is often found through the words of his family and friends. I thought I would share some kind words from Dave's friends among us:

"So sad to hear this. I first met Dave as a newbie when I joined SEDXC about 32 years ago. He offered me much encouragement and advice back then, and throughout the years. I will always appreciate that he did that for me, in addition to the kind manner in which he did it."

- John, N4TOL

"Dave always had the positive approach. He was a team player and exemplified strength and resolve in his remaining years. He was always an earnest and competitive contester and DXer. He came from 5-land and, if I remember correctly, a persistent winner in Sweepstakes and DX test at W5WMU."

"Dave once took my station armed with only a rotatable 40m dipole and won for the entire USA the CQWW SSB contest in the 70s! Even though he was hobbled with some health issues, he continued to hang tough in this great hobby. Dave will be missed but remembered by this old Ham-O-Holic."

- Val N4RJ

73, Dave – You will be missed!

*Chuck, AE4CW*

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## VP's Corner *(de Clark Macaulay, WU4B)*

### A Few Words About Our Speaker



I am really excited about our speaker this month! It is veteran DXer Dan W4DKS who is on the team going to Sable Island March 20-29, 2023. According to the website <https://t-rexsoftware.com/cy0s/index.htm> planning continues to go very well with this ARRL approved activation. Our own Bob K4UEE is on the team and providing his expertise in the planning, design, and building of the low band antennas.

In addition to being the proud father of Kevin (K2NRA), Dan has achieved many notable accomplishments in his long DXing career including DXCC #1 Mixed Honor Roll. Additionally, he has Phone Honor Roll (339, lacking BS7), CW (339, lacking P5), and RTTY/Digital (338 lacking BS7 and FT5X). Dan has every DXCC entity confirmed on LOTW.

He has been very active in the IOTA program since 1987, and in addition to chasing the groups he is the IOTA CheckPoint for US callsigns 1,2, and 3 and for South America (excluding PY and FY). His current IOTA total is 1118. He also currently serves as a Member of the IOTA Ltd. Board of Directors.

Dan is also active in the Russian Robinson Club, Indonesian Islands Hunters Group (IIHG), and Supporter and Life Member of Island Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF) (Islandradio.org). Other calls used by Dan during his radio career include SV0DI, G0NXJ, KE4I/DU3, EI4VRI, 4U1ITU (guest op), K4Z/ANT, and most recently CY9C. Following the CY9C operation in 2019, Dan sat for and passed the Canadian radio exam. As the holder of VE1DKS, Dan was able to request the special call CY0S for the Sable expedition.

In February, we have another DXpedition presentation in the works: Svalbard JW0A. With all of the hot DX already planned, and the sun giving us a boost, 2023 promises to be a banner year for DXing.

\73 es gud DX,

*Clark, WU4B*

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## Treasurer's Journal *(de Jeff Cantor, K1ZN)*



Greetings, Fellow DXers! Disbursements to report for last month:

Purpose	Amount
CY0S DXpedition (Sable Island) March 20 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	\$1,000.00
3B7m DXpedition (Saint Brandon) February 24 <sup>th</sup> – March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	\$360.00
Postage (New Member Packages)	\$22.35
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,382.35</b>

Our Account Balance is \$11,892.69 as of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

A revised and updated SEDXC Funding Application Form has been developed based upon input from club members Gregg Marco (W6IZT), Robert Bennett (NZ2Z), Dave Thompson (K4JRB, SK), Chuck Catledge (AE4CW). Thank you all for your participation in developing the new form. Chaz Cone (W4GKF) is uploading it to our web page under the "DXpedition Funding" tab.

The Leadership Team is in the process of purchasing a Memorial Brick on the ARRL Diamond Terrace for our fellow SEDXC member and DXer Dave Thompson (K4JRB), who is now an SK. The donation to the ARRL Foundation for this recognition is \$250, plus \$21.95 for a YL/family certificate.

Also, a quick note on the Not-for-Profit (501c3) status for SEDXC... The Leadership Team is recommending to the membership that SEDXC submit an application to the Internal Revenue Service for 501c3 status, so as to be able to maximize fund raising capabilities in the interest of DXpedition support. This will require a budget modification for the IRS application of \$275 for a one-time application fee, plus \$50 for a state of Georgia application as a not-for-profit corporation (annual fee). The President will call for a discussion and vote at our next meeting.

TNX, 73 & GUD DX,

*Jeff, K1ZN*

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## Around the Shack *(de Hal Kennedy, N4GG)*

### Immutable Laws, Common Occurrences



#### On Hardware

Outdoor repairs will take place in rainstorms or snowstorms. In the dark. When it's windy. When it's freezing cold or unbearably hot.

When you measure something with probes, the meter will read backwards. But, Murphy's law has a time constant. If you reverse the probes at the last possible moment before connecting, the meter will read correctly. But you have to be fast!

Murphy's Law of non-reciprocal outcomes: If it's right it will be wrong. If it's wrong it will be wrong.

Difficult repair tasks requiring concentration will be interrupted to repair tools.

Transmission lines are always a foot too short. This also applies to antenna wire, line cords, RS-232 cable, etc.

The better your antenna party is organized (beer purchased, pizza ordered), the more likely the key guy, the one bringing the climbing belt, will be a no-show.

Handbooks are either too thick or not thick enough to even out the leg of the operating table.

Resistor and capacitor markings occasionally do not follow the conventions.

You don't have the fuse you need.

If it's breakable it will break at the last step of installation.

The tip on your soldering iron will fail when you need it most. It does not matter what type of soldering iron.

Your major manufacturer's service department is backed up for four months.

#### On Radio Clubs

Last month some of the guys parked on the grass. The last guy out didn't put the chairs away. We have lost our meeting room.

The guy responsible for donuts did not show. The coffee was cold, weak and we ran out.

The presenter was 45 minutes late and not prepared.

Nobody will run for office.

Dues are \$5 per year. There are complaints that's too much.

## On DX

The station you worked for the honor roll does not QSL.

The card you received has a mistake. You can't get another.

RFI noise comes and goes in sync with rare DX.

Your distance away from home (and your rig) is proportional to the rarity of the DX.

Shortly after the DXpedition goes QRT, your QSO disappears from the log.

## On Presentations

200 words per vugraph, yellow type on white background, no pictorials.

Comic Sans.

45 minutes allocated, 90 minutes taken to explain 20 minutes of material.

Most of what was presented was wrong. Now what?

Computer will not read the file. Computer will not talk to the projector.

Microphone broken.

Batteries in wireless microphone are dead.

Fire alarm interrupts half-way through.

Presentation on "The Effect of Non-Linear Manifolds in Hilbert Space on 24 GHz band propagation" not well received.

## On Operating

"You are on the list."

"He gave you 3/1, good contact."

"I'm new to ham radio; can you help me do a MARS mod?"

“Please copy.”

“This frequency has been in use since 1957, thanks for asking.”

“Just replaced my 3-tube 77SX with this OM4000.”

“Rig here has the filters removed for eeeeeSSB.”

Just got awards from DARC (took 16 weeks) and from ARRL (took 16 months).

“Microphone here is a Loudenboomer 12000, the one with the three stage preamp. It’s feeding a W9HI-FI-WHY equalizer/compressor/noise gate/parametric filter/clipper. It doesn’t sound good? It must be your receiver.”

73,

Hal, N4GG

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## Manners Matter! *(de Bob Sarnecki, NF7D)*



Like many of you, I have been spending some quality radio time chasing FT8WW, Crozet Island, manned by Thierry Mazel (F6CUK). Quite a few clubs have funded Thierry’s efforts (including SEDXC), which will run until near the end of March, 2023.

It’s always interesting to chase during the first few days of a DXpedition; the operators are not necessarily in a rhythm yet, equipment must still be set up, antennas adjusted, etc. It’s a daunting task, and FT8WW’s “team” is one operator – Thierry – who is doing his best to work as many QSOs as possible, while still doing his job.

I know most of us are familiar with (and honor) the ***DX Code of Conduct***, which define some good behavior for working a DX pile-up. The Code focuses mostly on operating principles, but I wonder if it’s time to expand it to include other forms of “good behavior” for hams to follow in the quest for another All-Time New One (ATNO). If you have never seen The Code, check it out on [www.dx-code.com](http://www.dx-code.com). If you have not read it, take a few moments. But maybe it’s time to *expand* The Code to include a couple more principles that may be applicable as the Cycle 25 continues to improve:

**14. The DX station has a right to choose the mode and band.** I get it – Not everyone likes FT8; in fact, some consider its existence “the end of Amateur Radio”. But whether *you* like it or not, it is a valid mode, and some DXpeditions use it almost exclusively. If you need the Entity, then learn to use the mode and work the station. Spotting the station on the DX Cluster with comments that insult the DXpedition for

using a mode you do not like, referring to the operator as a “lid”, etc., is just poor form/bad behavior. If you do not approve of their modes or bands, then decline to fund the DXpedition; don’t fill up the DX Clusters with negative comments against your fellow hams, their DX teams or their proficiency. Thierry has done some CW and USB to help us out with bands and slots; I’m grateful, but ultimately, it’s his choice.

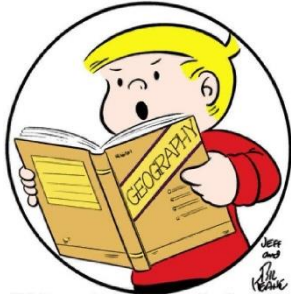
**15. I am not “owed” a contact.** There was a lot of “Cluster noise” around the inability to work Thierry even though your club sponsored him. Imagine for a moment what it must be like to be on a small island (where the penguin population far exceeds the human contingent), trying your best to work as many stations as you can all calling at the same time. Your skills as an operator, equipment, conditions and luck must all come together to catch that elusive ATNO. Congratulations! But it seems a little silly to expect the DXpedition to sit there with a roster from each sponsoring club, looking for calling stations who donated. Be thankful if you make contact (#12 in The Code), and avoid the temptation to post Cluster comments complaining that you haven’t completed a QSO even though your club sponsored the DXpedition. Do your best – Stay in the chase, and work without comments that disparage the DX Team. Sadly, there are DX Cluster spots that include hams that “want a refund” because they could not get Thierry, and still other hams that said that they would donate “only if he changes modes”.

My Mom used to tell my brother and me that “manners matter”. Now more than ever we should remember that the intent of The Code is to operate at our best while behaving honorably and respectfully. The DX Cluster is a great tool for DXers for finding the rare ones, and often include some hints and tips for making the contact effectively. It’s not really meant to be an alternative to social media; we certainly have more choices than we have a right to have these days – If you must complain, use Twitter instead.

73, Happy Holidays & Peace On the Bands,

*Bob, NF7D*

## 25 Years Ago... (de Bob Sarnecki, NF7D)



"If it wasn't for ham radio, I would have never even heard of Kyrgyzstan, Brunei, Kiribati, Djibouti, Malta, Nauru, Azerbaijan, or Burkina Faso!

The January, 1998 Newsletter is attached for your entertainment. This newsletter had a lot of fun stories, including a Cub Scout group (Tiger Cubs) that visited Rick Glisson's (N4XMX) shack. It's a great story about the "first joy" of seeing a ham shack and talking to someone on the radio.

Take a few minutes to read and enjoy!

73,

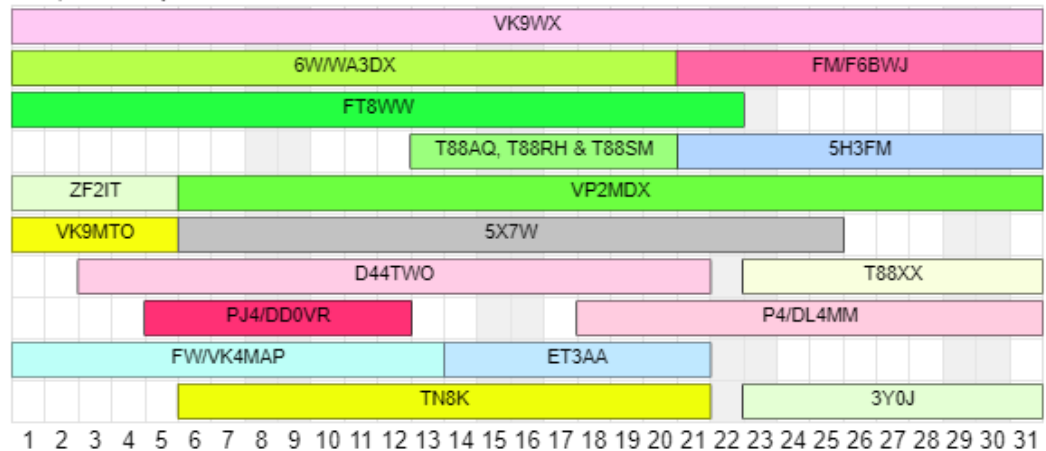
Bob, NF7D

## DXWorld.net DXpedition Timeline



### DXWORLD.net FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: January 12, 2023



Edited by MM0NDX

JANUARY

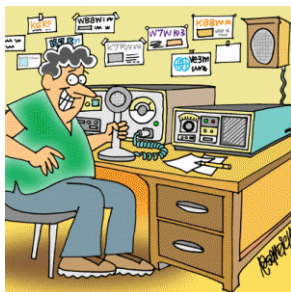
CC IK8LOV Max Laconca

The *DX World* Calendar features a timeline of all DXpeditions anticipated for the current month and is a great way to plan your chase for the next, All-Time New One (ATNO). The Calendar is updated regularly; use this link to see the latest version:

[http://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw\\_timeline\\_1\\_1.php](http://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw_timeline_1_1.php)

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## SEDXC Officers & Positions



### ***SEDXC Officers:***

Chuck Catledge, AE4CW – President – [c.catledge@gmail.com](mailto:c.catledge@gmail.com)  
Clark Macaulay, WU4B – Vice-President – [macaulay@gmail.com](mailto:macaulay@gmail.com)  
Joel Levine, WA4HNL – Secretary – [jlevine@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlevine@bellsouth.net)  
Jeffrey Cantor, K1ZN – Treasury – [jacantor9@gmail.com](mailto:jacantor9@gmail.com)  
Bob Hensey, K4VBM – Activities Manager – [ptcorners@gmail.com](mailto:ptcorners@gmail.com)

### ***SEDXC Appointed Positions:***

Chaz Cone, W4GKF – Webmaster – [w4gkf@chazcone.com](mailto:w4gkf@chazcone.com)  
Bob Sarnecki, NF7D – *SEDXC Bulletin* Editor – [bob.sarnecki@gmail.com](mailto:bob.sarnecki@gmail.com)



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

*THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB*

January 1998

## **NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION**

**NEW LOCATION!! Tues, Jan. 20th, 7:30 PM, TECH AMERICA, just north on Buford Hwy north of I-285.**

## **PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS**

**-Paul Hansen, W6XA, President**

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I was more than satisfied with mine but Santa forgot to bring the 10 new FT-1000D's. He still hasn't dug my tower hole either! But being a degree or two to the right of Scrooge, I'm happiest of all at getting through the holidays alive and still partially solvent.

We started a basement remodeling project in the beginning of November which has totally disrupted any sense of organization here. The contractors hate me because I am home all the time driving them crazy finding all the screw-ups they make. No wonder modern homes in Georgia fall apart. My workers put together about 12 solder fittings on some plumbing and 5 of them leaked. Heck, two of them still leak. Even some PVC drain pipe leaked at the glued couplings. How do you goof up PVC?

Even though the confusion, noise and drywall dust have almost driven us insane, there is light at the end of the tunnel. I hooked up one of the electrical circuits into the distribution panel and promptly blew the fuse right out of the socket. Seems my contractors have some new switch wiring methods that permit the black wire to be attached to one terminal and the white to the other. Happened not once, but twice! Hope my fire insurance is paid up.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: JANUARY'S MEETING WILL BE AT THE TECH AMERICA STORE ON BUFORD HIGHWAY.** From 285 go North on Buford less than one block, try to get into that parking lot on the West side of the road. It's just across Buford Highway from K-Mart. The program will have to be a surprise as we are not sure what it is yet.

One thing that is going to come up soon is our participation at Dayton. Hosting the hospitality room

with the Kansas City (I think) guys may not be in the cards this year and we should be thinking about it as early as possible. Those of you going to Dayton need to check with me because I am not sure I am going and if I do I can promise that I will not be stuck serving drinks all night to the small turn out we seem to attract.

Happy anniversary to the Southeastern DX Club. This is our 50th year!!! —... —

CU there, Paul, W6XA

## **DX TIDBITS**

**-Rick Glisson, N4XXM, editor**

If you are wondering where your favorite article may be from time to time or why you get your newsletter when you do, it's probably because the material is not submitted in time. The deadline is 2 weeks before the meeting. After that, when you get your newsletter is largely determined by when I get the stuff. If you don't like the present system, feel free to fix it.

Had a bunch of Tiger Cubs (pre Cub Scouts) over to the shack to show them Amateur Radio. With 8 six year olds at once, the script went out the window after the first 30 minutes! Set up some sheds but nobody could say so I got on the 2 meter repeater and got Sonny, KE4LDJ, in the car. Sonny was under some bridges at the time and sounded very far away. real DX! The look on those kids faces as Sonny spoke to each one (while driving!) made it all worth while. Thanks Sonny! Sometimes it's the little things that count. They didn't hear much about Marconi but they thoroughly enjoyed watching the tribander rotate!

CU in the pileups...

-Rick, N4XXM

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.

## BEEPS DE K2UFT

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

January - February - these are the big months for SEDXC. As a club and as individual members, we sponsor just over half of the plaques. As far as I can tell by quick observation, none of the plaques are sponsored by any of our arch rival stations in the Northeast. This year we have P49I once again going to Aruba to best his previous records and contribute to our aggregate score. W8JI, AD4J and I plan to mount an effort as W4S from Tom's new Barnesville, GA QTH. We need you all to get on the air and put forth a wall of SEDXC RF so those we work can once again wonder if there's anyone in Georgia that doesn't work the 160 test.

There are a couple wrinkles this year you need to know about. DC is now a multiplier, treated as a state. Hopefully someone will drop a wire from the Washington Monument and put forth a major effort. I for one question the wisdom of adding this section with a low resident ham population, but I didn't invent the rules. Wrinkle number two is the SSB weekend is February 27 thru March 1, a week later than usual.

The complete rules will be found in CQ Magazine, November '97 issue, Page 54. I would have reproduced them for you here, but the CQ Magazine Website does not include a link to their own rules, I'm not much of a typist under fire, and the guy I borrowed the scanner from took it back! Just get on the air @ 2200Z Jan 23 and then back off at 1600Z January 25, work as many stations as you can in between those times. You send RST + GA. For SSB, start at 2200Z February 27 and cease and desist at 1600Z March 1, exchange is 5 9 Georgia!

Have fun, make us some points.

73 Dick, K2UFT

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## SEDXC MINUTES 10/21/97

**-Dick Bentley, Temp. Sec.**

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM by W6XA  
Treasurer reports that the treasury is still intact, she hasn't skipped town.

Membership Committee report: W6XA reports that the proposed survey has not been mailed out

yet, K4UJ is busy getting a suntan at WP2Z. Nancy Draheim will provide up-to-date mailing labels so that a mailing may be done between Christmas and New Year's.

K4UEE suggested that his experience with taking the Heard Island program on the road indicates that we ought to try mining the membership of other radio clubs for new members. He reported fantastic levels of interest in Dxing among these clubs he has visited. He is obtaining some interesting slides from W4ZYT and a copy of the script they used in regenerating interest in their club in the Virginia Beach area. K4PI suggested that we also create a mentoring system so that new members or existing members with needs can be assisted by the expertise our club members possess. A committee consisting of NK4U as chairperson, K4UEE and AD4J building a slide show, KS4Q, K8XP and KE4LDJ as part of the presentation team.

W6XA suggested that each member put together a list of their needs for all-time new countries and mode country/zone needs so that the club can go back to the personal phone call list. In the case of those building their first DXCC, a list of what they don't need might be more appropriate.

K2UFT was asked to see if he could promote more participation in the CQWW 160 Contest coming up.

The meeting broke up at 8:20 in favor of participation in an auction to benefit the club. Some pretty good bargains were obtained by members. The two surprising items that drew a lot of attention were a pair of 12 volt distribution strips. K4HGG bargained for one at \$3.00 but K4PI got the newer 1A version for \$10. The real bargains, unbeknownst to club members, were sitting in the meeting room at Tech America - W8JI ended up sitting there, since the staff told him we were scheduled to meet there! In packing up his former QTH, he packed up the club bulletin and wasn't sure about the meeting place. He had a linear or two to auction off!

Sorry for Tom's trouble and we'll try to straighten this out with Tech America.

73 Dick, K2UFT, Secretary Pro Tem

## FROM THE INTERNET

(The following is about Father Moran, 9N1MM)

Dear Mr. Glisson,

Thank you for your e-mail of December 09, with your inquiry about "Moran of Kathmandu"

We can supply you the book at a cost of \$23(US), plus shipping. Shipping charge varies depending on whether you prefer surface mail or air mail delivery. Payment can be made by check in \$US upon delivery. (invoice will be mailed separately) Personal check drawn on a U.S. bank is acceptable.

Should you have any other questions concerning this or other White Orchid Press title please feel free to contact me at your convenience. We look forward to your reply.

Regards, Chutarat Kaewsoi for White Orchid Press 98/13 Soi Apha Phirom Ratchada Road, Chatuchak Bangkok 10900 Thailand. Tel. 66 2 930-0149. Fax. 66 2 930-5646. Website : <http://redfrog.norconnect.no/~wop>.

(Contact them at [wop@inet.co.th](mailto:wop@inet.co.th))

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### XW

Friends -

I just returned from the DXpedition to Laos, a bit earlier than the remaining operators. Two of the JA's had to leave early also.

Good news/bad news: the good news is that the authorities in Vientiane have authorized a two day extension to the operation so the DXpedition will QRT on the 16th at midnight Laos time instead of the 14th.

The bad news is that, as we knew going in, there would be very limited openings to the USA, especially the midwest. I can say that for those who need this (From the USA) the best time is between 2300 and 0130 UTC on 20 meters. The next best possibility is longpath on east coast sunrise (on 20 mtrs). 40 meters has been highly productive to the states and we did work a fair number of USA stations on 3.5, but none on 160.

Openings to EU have been very good on all bands. At this point there are close to 1000 QSO's in the logs on 160 mtrs to EU and Asia.

I just read a few comments on the reflector and have to agree with those who point out that it's impossible to know what the conditions are at our end. The local noise is perhaps the biggest problem - we might be working everyone in the

January 1998

USA hearing big 599+ signals, then to have everything wiped out by local electrical sources. Zorro just reported to me that there are equipment problems now with 2 of the 4 stations we were using. Contrary to what's been said, no one went QRT to take meals! And yes, there have been many occasions when the local hosts pre-empted our time with ceremonial matters - many receptions with the Laotian News Agency (KPL) and one afternoon where we were all featured on two of Lao's TV stations.

All this has its merits: Zorro and I have been invited back in October for another operation and to conduct other business in behalf of the KPL in Lao. So, yes, it's not all what it seems, but certainly everyone is doing their best to bring Laos to those who need it.

One more problem - something the DXers can help fix - is the operating habits of many, especially stateside, especially on SSB. All too often when we would come back to a specific station, there would be a few dozen more pouncing on his frequency making it nearly impossible to conduct the intended QSO, at best slowing the process down during short windows. Another vexation is the use of "last two letters" which again slows it all down. We as operators decided at the outset that we would not respond to "last two" for all the reasons that have been discussed here on the Reflector many times in the past.

To those in the midwest, there is nothing "deliberate" about not working you, as one person suggested. We had excellent propagation studies done for us by AA7A and they demonstrated correctly that the opportunities are nearly nil for the midwest, so again we knew this in advance and the few days experience at Laos showed us that unfortunately this is the situation.

But, at least, the DXpedition time has been extended and there will be another one in October. k

I have to add that much credit for all this goes to Zorro JH1AJT for spending now nearly ten years working the Laotian government to bring ham radio a reality in that country. We are very grateful to the Laotians for letting us operate in their country in the first place, even though the down-down locations they selected for us weren't as ideal as some might want. As I understand it, this is the first time they've permitted a team operation of international operators like this. They were most gracious hosts. We as amateurs are lucky that any operation has been allowed at all from what in the past has been a very closed country.

I hope this information helps.

73 de Frank Smith AH0W/OH2LVG

PS: As of this morning there were 17,000 QSO's logged in with 4 more days to go. Good luck.