



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

## W4NT

*THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB*

January 1997

### **NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION**

**Tuesday, Jan. 21st, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**-Steve Schmidt, K4WA, President**

He arrived home from out of town on Friday night, just forty minutes before the start of the 10m contest, to find Christmas lights hanging from his TH5. Some wags with too little to do. He went inside, took his antibiotics, and another Motrin to knock the fever down from the raging case of Bronchitis he'd caught on the road. Then he trudged out to try and unstring the lights from the tower before the start of the contest.

He found one line right away, attached to the plate for his radials. He untied it, and one long strand of lights came down. There was still a strand suspended from the antenna, keeping him from being able to turn it. He searched in vain in the dark; returned to the house for a flashlight. His head was pounding. "Why do I have to get sick just before the ten meter contest, a week before Christmas," he wondered aloud. There was no answer.

He couldn't find the other line. If only the antenna was pointed west..he could wait until morning to finish getting the lights down. "Too bad they strung 'em over the beam," he mused. "They're kind of pretty." He almost wished he could leave them up for Christmas. "The Motrin must be kicking in," he thought. The dacron line was black, giving him a real problem picking it up with the flashlight, but he finally found it, attached to his fence. "Got you," he thought exultantly. With a final curse directed to the thugs responsible for this trouble (and he was pretty sure he knew who they were), he pulled the last strands clear of the antenna and headed for the warm house.

He had about five minutes left to set up CT for the contest and connect the keyer line to the parallel port. "Let's see, single op, low power, cw only.." he

picked the most appropriate settings and went to work on the keyer line. With thirty seconds left before the start of the contest, he tuned the rig to a clear frequency (they all seemed to qualify) and hit the autotune button. At 0000z, he started CQing.

"The band must have closed hours ago," he thought. In the first hour, he made eight contacts, six of them from Georgia. Switching to search-and-pounce, he tuned in several northeastern stations he could hear faintly and called futilely. His head was throbbing again, and not in synch with the cw sidetone. After another half-hour, he decided to go to bed and wait for better conditions in the morning.

The alarm clock woke him much too early. His head was buzzing unpleasantly and his mouth had the distinctive metallic taste that always seems to accompany a fever. He struggled into his clothes and padded downstairs to the radio. Turning the beam to the northeast, he made a few difficult contacts through the QSB. After a frustrating hour, he took a break and went to the kitchen for some breakfast. Peering out the kitchen window at his antenna, he noticed the coax and rotor cable hanging in a loop around the base.

Of course! Those bozos lowered the crank-up tower to put the lights up and didn't crank it all the way back up! He hadn't noticed it in the dark last night. He wondered sourly how many contacts he might have missed with his tower at only 3/4 height. Putting on his shoes, he plodded out to the tower and cranked it up to its full 41'. "That should be good for a couple db," he thought. It seemed to help, but not much.

Ten meters was a bust. Sometime after noon he gave up any thoughts of a serious effort. The fever and the poor conditions were just too much for his short tower to overcome. Time and again, he'd managed to pull out a call sign, only to have the station fade away before he could get the state. The "alt-W" on the keyboard was getting a workout. He dragged himself back up to bed. Just before hitting the pillow, he thought out loud, "I should have left the lights up."

Given the amount of pain and suffering some of us endure while trying to competitively *(continued p2)*

(continued from p1) contest, it's clear that contesting can occasionally be a lot of fun. To be sure, 10 meters won't be as fun for contesting right now as 160. Even a low dipole on 160 will net you many more contacts than the unfortunate soul profiled above. You should try it; it might turn out to be a great time, and the club could certainly use the points.

The CQWW 160 CW contest is scheduled for 2200z January 24 to 1600z January 26; the CQWW 160 SSB contest for 2200z February 21 to 1600z February 23rd. The exchange is signal report and state. You'll be surprised how many stations and states you can work. Get some wire in the air and get on, you might like it! No matter what your score, be sure to show the club's name on the summary sheet and get your results in to the contest organizers. Every little bit helps. More at the January meeting; we're looking forward to seeing you there.

73, Steve K4WA

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## FROM THE VP

**-Paul Pescitelli, K4UJ, VP**

Now that all the holidays are over we can all concentrate on Amateur radio once again. Hope you are prepared for the CQWW 160. I know that I am having a heck of a time preparing for our trip to KP4. Please listen for us (K4WA and myself) and also for K4PI who is venturing back to Aruba. Good Luck Mike!

I don't know what the program is going to be this month so come with an open mind. Many thanks to Tom W8JI for the program last month on how antennas work and why, he only scratched the surface of some interesting topics and I hope that he will join us again soon for a followup.

Hope to work everyone in the CQWW 160 CW Jan 25th & 26th.

73 - Paul K4UJ

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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.

## MINUTES

**-Randy Tudor, K4ODL, Sec.**

SEDXC Meeting Minutes December 1996

The meeting was called to order by K4WA Steve. Introductions were made and the guest list was passed for everyone to sign.

Minutes approved from the last meeting.

Old business - Paul will place the order for the new SEDX badges on 12/18/96.

A new membership list should be available early next year.

New business - None

Announcements - 7O until 12/21; 8Q - 12/19 until 1/1/97; VKØIR mid January

K2UFT collected 160 contest commitments.

The CW TEST 25,26 January, SSB TEST 22,23 February.

Drawing & White Elephant gift exchange was a lot of fun.

Program - W8JIT - Tom gave great program on some of the theory of how an antenna works. Also we had a very good discussion about lowband receiving antennas. Tom was very interesting and we didn't want to end the discussion. Maybe we can get Tom to come back for another program. You missed a good one if you did not attend.

-73 Randy, K4ODL

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## MR. LOWBAND SEZ...

**-Mike Greenway, K4PI**

I will be at P49I during CQ 160 during January 22-29. Please work me to help the club score. Participation has been a little low recently, please fire up the rig and give it a shot. Every bit helps! Call up your friends and get them on the air.

-73, Mike

**Note:** Steve, K4WA and Paul, K4UJ, will be at KP4 signing KP4/K4UJ during the CQ 160M contest. Work them if you can!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**-Nancy Draheim, NK4U**

Balance 11/30/96 (Checkbook)	<u>\$2213.09</u>
Income:	<u>\$140.00</u>
Expenses:	
Bank Charges	10.00
QSL Bureau	8.00
160 plaques	10.60
Door Prizes	44.05
Balance Checking 12/31/96	<u>\$2280.44</u>

Happy New Year to everyone. May 1997 bring that last one and put you on the Honor Roll. Hope you've got that 160 antenna up and ready to go...

73, Nancy, NK4U, Treasurer

## BEEPS DE K2UFT

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

My apologies to Ron, W4WA for misquoting his scores in our last issue. Think we had a transmission problem with the file. Better luck this time: ARRL SS SSB:

AA4S Single Op, Unassisted, Hi Power 412 - 824 - 74 - 60,976

CQWW CW:

AA4S Single Op, Unassisted, Hi Power 1339 - 3725 - 123 - 349 - 1,758,200 8P9Z ô ô ô  
6222 - 15640 - 132 - 429 - 8,774,040 (K4BAI)

ARRL - 10 Mtrs:

K4BAI Single Op, Mixed Modes, Lo Pwr - 181 - 638 - 58 - 37,004

ARRL - 160 CW:

K4PI - Single Op. Unlimited 248 - 544 - 56 - 15 - 38,624

K4BAI - Single Op. Low Pwr. 122 - 247 - 36 - 1 - 9,139

If you wanna see it in print, you gotta get it to me! Commitments for 160 Tests: K4WA: 300,000 CW 50,000 Phone K4UJ: 70,000 Phone P49I: 900,000 CW K2UFT: 100,000 CW 50,000 Phone KE4LDJ: 10,000 Phone K4ODL: 50,000 Phone

NX90: 10,000 CW (from P40), 10,000 Phone

As I write this its about 5 hours away from bedlam on the bands over VKØIR. The information coming from the Internet, especially the Bulletins from Pilot Station ON4UN, has been outstanding. I listened briefly for VKØIR/Beacon when I could and found three instances of stations imitating the Beacon! Frequency was dead on but the op's sense of timing was shoddy. Its hard for me to imagine having the time luxury to sit around and pretend to be a beacon! Some demented sole was reported on the cluster to be imitating the beacon using a bug!

Part of the program this month will be a less than technical presentation on the famous 160 meter 450 ohm ladder line Inverted L and what I had to do with it to get it to work in my back yard! Discovered an unexpected bonus this evening when I accidentally tuned it up on 80 meters and got a 579 from Clive, GM3POI!

Definitely See You in THE pileup of the Century!

-73, Dick, K2UFT Activities Manager

## DX TIDBITS

**-Rick, N4XMX**

To paraphrase a famous baseball player, "Santa DX has been bery, bery good to me." Three all time new ones in two weeks! Had been very busy during the week the 7O was on and hadn't gotten a chance. Turned on the rig for a few minutes Saturday night, no 7O. Rats. However, ZS8IR popped up on 20M with very few people calling. Took about 10 minutes. Went to bed. Got up Sunday, had to be at church by 10:30 AM, fired up rig at 9:00 AM local. There was the 7O on 17M with a small pileup! 17M is much easier, fewer people have good antennas. My A3WS is at a startling heigth of 20 feet. Shows I'm a big gun, huh?

Following week, the TN7A comes on. Hear him on 40M one night, small pileup. I am aluminum challenged on 40M with my verticle. Tried for 45 minutes, he's calling CQ, working a few, can't hear me. Finally, just before I turn off the rig in disgust, I call in a really low voice. He comes right back! Whatever it takes...

CU in the pileups...

-Rick, N4XMX