



Bulletin



February 2021

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This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday February 18th @ 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Telemeeting

Info: www.sedxc.org

Topic: Contest and DX Station Building

Speaker: Craig Thomson, K9CT

From the Prez



Dick K5TF

Fellow YL/OM:

Wow, mid-February already, but COVID-19 still with us.

I spoke with Dick, K5TF and he is tending to family matters. Also corresponded with Mike, ND4V who is mending slowly, but mending surely. We wish both of them well.

For me, I am getting ready for six-meter season and maybe DXCC on 6!

I hope to see you on Thursday, March 18th at 7PM on Zoom for a presentation by the Northern California DX Foundation on the Beacon Project.

73, de Jeff / K1ZN
Sitting in for Dick, K5TF

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VP's Corner

Mike ND4V



First, let me thank everyone who sent me an email or card during my hospitalization. I didn't always feel up to answering you and honestly keeping up with the cell phone on a small over-bed table was a hassle. That being said, I read each and everyone of them, and they sure helped to boost the spirit.

A special thanks to Jeff Cantor, K1ZN for stepping in and arranging the programs. I've heard good reports on all of them. Thanks again, Jeff!

Status: I am about 70% healed up. Still have daily bandage changes. I'm ambulatory but my stamina isn't back to where it used to be. One of the wound closures makes sitting for any extended time pretty uncomfortable, so I'm not seeing a lot of butt in chair in my immediate future. The prognosis is good but healing at my age is a slow process.

Stay well, mask up, and get your vaccinations!

Mike ND4V ♦

Around the Shack

de Hal N4GG/4



Transmit Quality Mica Capacitors

In these days of store-bought gear, articles about components may seem passé. But there is at least one component that comes in handy, costs next to nothing and can be a little hard to find. It is the only component I "hoard," but I gladly give away my stock to anyone who asks.

I'm speaking of transmit quality mica capacitors. Figure 1 shows the types most frequently encountered. Figure 2 shows my hoard. Figures 3 and 4 show typical examples where you can see their ratings. Most of these capacitors are rated for several amps and thousands of volts – just what we need for QRO.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

What are these good for? Three things I'm aware of. I'll dispose of the less common application first: As DC blocking capacitors in high power tube amplifiers. The capacitor that couples RF from the plate of an amplifier tube to the output network needs to stand-off high voltage and carry high current. Doorknob capacitors are often seen in this application, but the mica caps in Figure 1 work just as well. But, sadly, who is home-brewing vacuum tube linear amplifiers these days? [There are a few of us repairing them].

The next application is in high power antenna tuners. Some of these are still being home-brewed, and there is lots of work for anyone who can repair the commercially built ones. I can't think of a ham-related product where the manufacturers "fudge" on ratings more than antenna tuners. There are MANY antenna tuners for sale rated at 1.5 KW

that can't handle that rating. QRO antenna tuners are expensive to build – price can tell you a lot about the true rating of what you are buying. A 1.5 KW antenna tuner that covers 1.8 to 30 MHz and SWR up to, let's say, 5:1, *must* use expensive components and *will be priced accordingly*.

The mica capacitors in Figure 1 are a good component for antenna tuner repair, or for building one from scratch. They typically are far superior in voltage and current handling compared to what you receive when you buy an inexpensive "1.5 KW" tuner. I've repaired many over the years and my transmit-quality mica capacitor box is where I head for parts.

Here is a sad story. I own two identical store-bought 1.5 KW antenna tuners. They are well made and costly. One day "the magic smoke" came pouring out of one. The failure occurred on 28 MHz at high SWR. Locating the problem was easy. With the cover off a pair of charred disc ceramic capacitors were easy to spot. The repair took a little thought. The schematic identified that capacitor as "C11," and it was a single capacitor. The parts list included C11 but with a different value. The "as-built" used two capacitors in parallel and neither had a value close to the schematic or to the parts list. The parts list, schematic and actual hardware all had a different "C11."

Chatting with engineers at the company, they confirmed the design was a little over it's head on 10 meters with high SWR. They had been experimenting (on production units!) trying to prevent failures. They sent me a replacement cap – which was a doorknob style used in one of their QRO amplifiers. That fixed the problem – there have been no failures since. But, what about my other, identical tuner? I replaced "C11" (two in parallel, different values yet again) in that one with one of the transmit quality mica capacitors this article is about. The voltage and current rating of the cap I installed far exceeded what was needed and the mica dielectric was "the right stuff" for RF.

The third application and the most common one for transmit micas I'll cover next month. It involves making traps and matching networks at the base of verticals. If you don't DIY anything else at your shack, you will benefit from knowing how to use a simple L-Network to bring a non-resonant antenna to 50 ohms.

So, where do I get these? I scan every hamfest table for them. There are surplus houses on the web that offer them occasionally. The other place to acquire one is from an old salt like me. Just ask. What do you need?

These caps are all "surplus" and many date to WW II. "On the shelf" they never go bad. Never. The typical hamfest price is \$1 each, although I once bought a large box of them for \$5 at an average cost of around 20 cents!

They tend to show up in two ranges of values. One range is around 0.01 uF – these are good for vacuum tube coupling caps, but how many of those will you use in a lifetime? I have a few of that value and decline buying more. Even at \$1 each I can't justify keeping many. I did use one to repair an Alpha 87 linear amplifier about five years ago. I have not needed one since.

The useful ones are in the range of 50 pF to around 1,000 pF (0.001 uF). These values are ideal for antenna tuners, traps and antenna matching networks.

More on that next month.

73,

Hal N4GG ❖

P.S. The date on my first license is January 27, 1961. 60 years of fun. Where did the time go?

Treasurer's Journal

Jeff K1ZN



Current Checkbook Balance = \$15,527.88

Expenses this past month:
K4SSU Memorial Brick at ARRL HQ: \$271.95
Co-Sponsor of GA QSO Party Plaque: \$36.
Website Maintenance: \$14.49

In recognition of his dedication and devotion to our hobby and in particular DXing, the Southeastern DX Club has purchased a Memorial Brick on the ARRL HQ SK Walkway for David J. Johnson, K4SSU (SK). Please see the letter from ARRL at the end of this Bulletin confirming this tribute to Dave.

Jeff K1ZN ❖

CQ DXers!

The following email was received by Jeff and is forwarded to the membership for review. Please contact KW4K if you are interested in participating.

Hi Jeff, this is Wayne Robertson, K4WK, and you were my speaker on DXing at the 2018 Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest, a seemingly long long time ago!

Anyhow, I am a volunteer with Red Cross and one of the organizers of some nationwide Red Cross EmComm Radio Drills. Our next one is May 8, World Red Cross Day. We will be passing Red Cross traffic over RF using Winlink across the nation but because it is also World Red Cross Day we'd like to do something additional involving DX.

What we'd like is a few Big Gun stations to work as much SSB DX as they can during a set period of that day, to show Red Cross non-hams what the reach of amateur radio can be. We'd be able to say something like "during the xx hours of the Spring Drill our four DX stations were able to communicate with fellow radio amateurs over a hundred countries..."

Would you or someone in the SECC be interested in doing this along with a few other DXers in other parts of the country?

Many thanks, Wayne de K4WK

W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention September 24-25 Is ON!

Location: Pigeon Forge, TN

Info: <http://www.w4dxcc.com/index.html>

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ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO®

Advancing the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio

- ADVOCACY
- MEMBERSHIP
- PUBLIC SERVICE
- EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY

February 5, 2021

Southeastern DX Club, W4NT
c/o Jeffrey Cantor
47 Rock House Estates Drive
Senoia, GA 30276-3091

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your very generous contribution to the American Radio Relay League in the amount of \$271.95 for a brick in memory of David J. Johnson, K4SSU, SK. Your brick will be processed as you requested. The brick will be placed in our Diamond Terrace located in front of our building. We will notify his wife of your generous gift.

Your support through your memorial donations helps ensure that ARRL will be able to explore new services and respond to changes in technology and provides resources necessary for us to take on projects important to the future of Amateur Radio.

The work of ARRL – to promote Amateur Radio, to secure its future for all hams and their communities, to provide public service, including vital emergency communications training to protect our communities in times of disaster and crisis, and to educate the next generation in the fascinating world of Amateur Radio – will continue thanks to your generosity.

Sincerely,

Melissa Stemmer, KA7CLO
Development Manager

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SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

February 1996

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, Feb 20th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL, President

Well, the CQWW 160 CW is history now. Those of you who tried working it on Friday night/ Saturday morning know how difficult the conditions were. Even with a beverage, I found the static crashes from lightning just wore me down. I managed to hang in and even worked a couple EU's the first night. If you didn't try again on Saturday night, you missed it! Conditions improved substantially. I even heard some loud EU's without the beverage. I think I worked more PA's than GA's, so I suspect we're behind the curve again. On the flip side, I heard PA's calling CQ right on top of a European station that they, apparently, couldn't hear, so perhaps we did better with the multipliers. I used high power and more than doubled last year's low power score. I'm looking forward to hearing how you did. Don't forget to turn in those logs with our club name in the appropriate spot!

The CQWW 160 Phone contest is coming up next. Let's give it our best shot and see if we can make up any ground we lost due to thunderstorms. If you don't feel that you can compete with some of the bigger guns, just see how much you can improve on last year's score. Every little bit helps. If you haven't tried the 160 contest yet, all your points will be an improvement for the club score. If you don't have a suitable antenna, yell for help and perhaps we can get you on the air.

There's been some discussion lately about whether we are a contest club or strictly a DX club. I like to think we have something for everyone. I'm personally more interested in chasing DX than contesting but I've found that contests are a good place to find DX. When you're nearing the honor

roll and DX is tougher to find, contesting keeps your skills honed and gives you a chance to work 'em all over again! I hope we don't ever feel the need to define our participation in the Southeastern DX Club in narrow terms. I think these two areas coexist very peacefully and perhaps even create synergy.

Hope to see you on Tuesday.

73, Steve, KR4DL

FROM THE VP

by Sonny Marsh, KE4LDJ, VP

Several of you dropped by the Atlanta Hamfest booth and mentioned that you wanted programs at our meetings to be of a technical, "how-to," nature. If any of you would like any subject to be covered, please let me know the topic and I'll try to find someone to discuss it.

I'm sure all of you, at some time or another, have experienced line noise. At our next meeting, Mike Greenway, K4PI, will show us how to identify, track down, and possibly eliminate line noise.

Mike would welcome questions from the floor, so please try to think of some by meeting time. Hope to see all of you there.

-73, Sonny, KE4LDJ

DX-PEDITION to VK9C & VK9X

1. QRV From COCOS KEELING Callsign: VK9CA Date: March 19 - March 23, 1996
2. QRV from CHRISTMAS Is. Callsign: VK9HX Date: March 23 - March 24 or 25, 1996
3. Both QRV: Band: 160 ~10m, All Band, Mostly WARC Band. Mode: CW/SSB RIG: 100W Only (Legal Power under regulation of VK) Op. Ken, AD4WF & JAICMD QSL info next month. Out of space. 73? Kiyoshi Endo. AE4EA & JAOBSL FAX: (770) 502-9827 INTERNET: 103222:760@compuserve.com

MINUTES, SEDXC MEETING 1/16/96

-Buddy Harrell, W4OUN, Sec.

(No minutes this month, Buddy was out of town. -ed)

BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

Last meeting the membership heartily approved a on-going award program for working members of the SEDX Club. Now we need to design an appropriate certificate, get them printed and advertised. Your ideas for the design of the certificate would be appreciated. In fact, if any members or acquaintances of members have talent in graphic design, I could use some help in this area. See me at next meeting, call me on 770-913-3624 or leave a note on the cluster.

Don't forget to participate in the CQWW 160 Phone test at the end of the month and send your scores in - we need your help, whether 10 QSOs or 1,000 Qs.

-73 Dick, K2UFT - Activities Manager

MR. LOW BAND SEZ...(INTERNET)

-Mike Greenway, K4PI

This is for you guys that like details. My ts930 quit the first day i was at P49I. Depression sets in. I called Carl, AI6V/P49V at his home in California and he graciously agreed to loan me a TS930 he had in storage at P49V. Thanks Carl!!

I got it on Wed afternoon and it worked fine except for one problem. The tuning dial did not always cause the radio to change frequency. You would be tuning and no freq change and then all of a sudden it would jump, so this kept me from doing any mult hunting.

This is my 4th year at P4 for the 160m test. I operate from the QTH of P43AS, which is at Savanetta on the south side of Aruba. It is available for rental. If interested contact me for details. The ant used for xmit is a 60 ft tower with a beam on top. It is shunt fed with 75 radials varying in length from 60-120 ft long. There were 9 elevated radials. It usually takes 3 days or more to

get everything set up just right. Many of the radials have to be laid in a cactus field. Ouch!! I still have cactus spines in my feet. They have to be removed when I leave. There are 4 rx ant apoproximately 400 ft long. There is not enough property available at this time for more length. Maybe later. I had to use mainly the NE bev as John, P40WA was near by and rf hash covered the band due to our close-ness. This is another reason I didn't tune for mults.. The rig was TS930 and amp Alpha 76ca.

During the contest the EU were the strongest I have ever heard, but apparently they didnt hear me as they were always calling cq on top of me. I5NSR was the main culprit. He was all over me both nights. Some other F5IN, PA6A and PA0CLN. None of these ever called me during the test.

If you didn't call me exactly on my frequency I didn't answer as station were so close one either side you can not tell often if a station is coming back to you are someone next to you. The timing would correct. I found it better to ignore to avoid false qso. I have seen this every year. Normally you must be within .1 hz for me to respond.

Later in the morning when stations cleared out some i could tell statios were calling out to .2 hz +/- . I worked about 135 eu. Some breakdowns DL-33, SM-14, OH-18, OZ-4, G-17, ON-5. I worked 47 states, where's ID?? 8 VE prov, VY2OX was the prize. I worked bunches of AL7/KL7 but only 1 was real mc coy. Same goes for AH6/KH6 but only KH6CC real thing. I know CT had field day putting in mults such as AH8A who was really in Cal. From SA XQ8ABF, 2 PY's, 9Y4, YV, HK, and PY0. Had about 930 q before dupes and 112 mults.

This is all tentative as all work i done by paper. This was the best i could do as i never left the operating desk once i sat down at 22 gmt i did not get up til 12 GMT. No food — no nature breaks. I called for long times with no callers. Hi. It's starting to loose some of it's charm or maybe I'm getting too old.

73 Mike K4PI/P49I

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.

CONTEST CORNER

-Ron, AB4RU

Well as most of you know the first part of the CQ160 test was extremely noisy with the storms moving into the Southeast part of the United States. Conditions were great, otherwise and a lot of new dx was worked by everyone. Lets all hope the 160 phone contest in February will be better.

In my previous article, last month, I mentioned some suggestions, on how we could regenerate the club into a better contesting effort. I am still asking the membership the same question? I have received little response.

Those of you that got on in the noise and worked as many as you could, please send Dave, K4JRB, your score. You can post your scores by sending them to 3830@akorn.net You do not have to be subscribed.

73's Ron AB4RU

ab4ru@aol.com ab4ru@stc.net

Some CQ160 CW scores:

CALL	HRS	SCORE	Q'S	PTS	ST/VE	DX
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Single/OP/QRP

K0GU		42,222	278	681	52	10
KA1CZF		34,272	300	46	5	
VE7CQK		680	20	85	7	1

Single/OP/HP

ON4UN 79		1,133,370		1275	8995	47
VP9AD		1,220,880		1630	58	62
VE3EJ		743,971	1287	6953	59	48
G0IVZ		542,016	863	5646	41	55
VE9AA		443,515	678	4145	56	51
WB9Z		430,008	1123	59	55	
KC8MK		416,193	1084	58	54	
AA5BL		411,000	1165	57	50	
W3GH (W9XR)		353,052	1057	58	50	
W4MYA,16		331,886	925	3286	54	44
WZ3Q		309,309	963	54	47	
K1IU 10		250,357	570	2581	51	46
K8FC		195,608	703	57	41	
K1KI 5		180,928	412	50	38	
K2WK 8		177,570	503	51	39	
K3JT		173,512	808	56	26	
WR30		172,172	746	2002	56	30
NW6N		162,488	669	55	21	

C31LJ 12		157,006	512	14	44	
N6ZZ		148,068	675	55	26	
NCOP		144,780	770		76	
OZ1AXG		143,496	350	1993	17	55
W8CAR		140,778	687	1782	52	27
K0EJ 13		131,978	637	1714	52	25
NI8L 12		131,824	638	1712	52	25
OI6YF (OH6YF)		129,584	439	2314	6	50
N3RR 10		122,122	498	47	30	
AI7B		120,085	634	1645	56	17
KR4DL		103,842	461	1282	52	29
VE6KRR		95,703	350	1679	52	5
KF3P 6		91,500	432	1220	51	24
WB9HRO13		91,242	506	58	16	
WV5S		89,836	480	55	19	
VE6JY		81,114	245	53	13	
AB5YG		81,114	518	1229	51	15
K9JF/7 15		75,768	451	1114	56	12
K9MA 5		62,510	333	54	16	
K8MR 4		51,035	370	49	10	
N4BP		48,768	302	762	64	
KC0EI		47,100	347	52	7	
N8ATR		44,840	180	590	47	29
W5ASP 6		41,667	321		57	
N4OGW/93		32,480	215	46	12	
WE9V (KS9K)3		25,596	180	474	43	11
N8RR 2		17,360	84	34	18	

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 12/31/95 (Checkbook) \$2261.16

Income: \$276.00

Expenses:

Jan. Newsletter 83.38

QSL Outgoing Buro 15.40

Bank Charges 10.07

PO Box rental 58.00

Door Prizes 54.44

Total Expenses 428.10

Balance Checking 1/31/96 \$2315.87

* In this balance is \$1012.10 designated for the Packet Cluster and \$550 which was donated for the Paul Wolfe, AD4NQ, fund (this amount also includes an extra \$10% which was donated by the club). Hope everyone and their antennas survived the ice storm. Come on Spring!!!! See everyone on the 20th.

-73, Nancy NK4U