



Bulletin



February 2024

Founded In 1958

Our Next Meeting & Speaker

- Date & Time:** February 15, 2024
- Location:** Zoom meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
- Speaker:** Bob Schmieder KK6EK, scientist & explorer
- Topic:** The Future of DX



From the Prez *(de John Tramontanis, N4TOL)*

As this newsletter was about to be distributed, we learned of the passing of our dear friend and

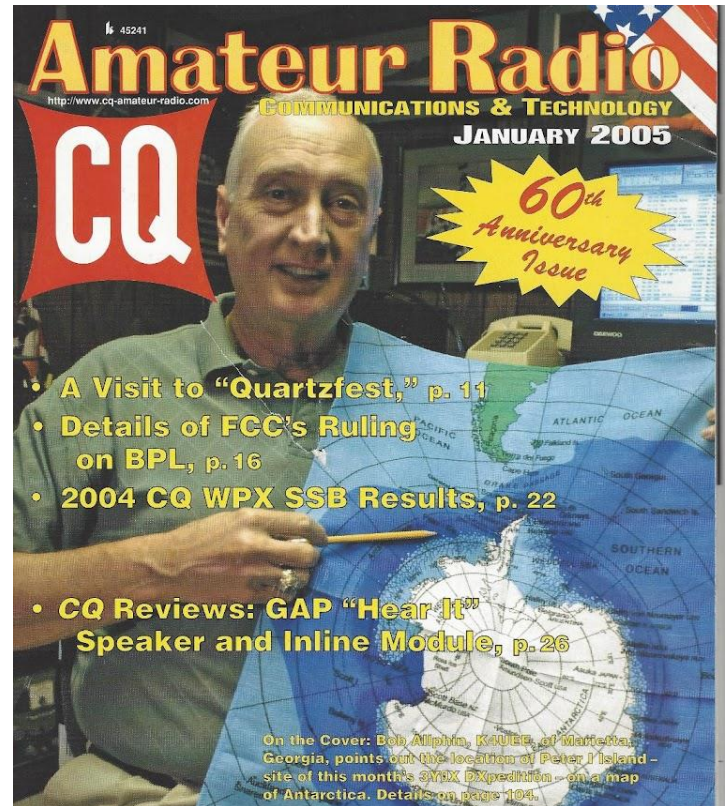
fellow club member, Bob Allphin, K4UEE on February 10th.

Bob was a member of SEDXC for decades and was THE avid DXer. He led more than a dozen DXpeditions to rare entities over the years.

He was a prominent ambassador for DX community as well as our club, and a major contributor to and supporter of amateur radio.

Please keep Bob’s family in your prayers.

Funeral information will be posted to the SEDXC Groups.io group soon.



Well, January came and went in a flash.

After wrapping up 2023 with fine propagation and lots of DX worked by the SEDXC membership, which was evidenced by the fine club performance in the CQ DX Marathon, it appears the bands and our group are off to a fine start again in 2024.

At the close of January, based on Club Log data for SEDXC members, 12 members have already worked over 100 countries. There were also 3 members that surpassed the 200 country mark in January!!

Here are the SEDXC results for January 2024 from Club Log submissions:.

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	K4PI ★	1	4	9	36	38	44	45	47	38	70	4	210	336	64 yrs
2	N4RJ	7	12	7	45	24	70	39	94	54	99	6	209	457	68 yrs
3	K1ZN	0	4	8	35	53	92	37	45	38	45	2	201	359	38 yrs
4	WA1S+1 ★	11	7	7	11	13	79	17	101	25	109	5	189	385	45 yrs
5	KD5M ★	7	10	21	47	41	49	27	45	69	79	15	176	410	57 yrs
6	W4UCK	8	23	0	22	40	40	65	53	57	58	2	174	368	36 yrs
7	W8ZF+2	0	0	0	0	61	9	42	18	53	19	1	156	203	56 yrs
8	KK4E	0	15	15	48	23	61	30	48	33	61	0	129	334	6 yrs
9	AA8R+3 ★	0	3	0	30	15	33	21	33	56	29	1	126	221	51 yrs
10	N1KDO	2	4	0	24	29	22	47	32	42	50	0	107	252	17 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	K4VBM+2	1	8	15	14	23	16	18	24	29	39	0	104	187	10 yrs
12	N4TOL ★	4	7	2	7	12	16	15	16	22	34	0	100	135	36 yrs
13	WA4ZXV	3	5	0	32	5	36	23	11	16	38	1	83	170	51 yrs
14	WA1F	4	7	1	14	1	23	1	42	3	37	2	81	135	15 yrs
15	WA4HNL	0	0	0	30	9	17	15	8	9	20	0	80	108	65 yrs
16	N4MNV+1	0	9	32	4	10	2	4	26	9	19	0	69	115	5 yrs
17	KK4TKJ	1	31	0	8	6	7	11	12	1	24	0	67	101	11 yrs
18	K4PWS	0	9	0	7	0	16	6	16	27	26	0	66	107	26 yrs
19	N4MI+1 ★	0	11	0	8	12	15	9	14	18	21	2	60	110	32 yrs

Are your totals reflected in Club Log?? If so, are you tied in with the SEDXC as your club in the Club Leagues section? Consider signing up and submitting your log. As we learned from Dick Hattaway, W4PID, our presenter last month, Club Log is a powerful

tool for the DXer, as it offers so many features to enhance one's experience in the DX realm. If you have any questions, just post them to our Groups.io and folks will be glad to help.

The club was also well represented at the Gwinnet Amateur Radio Society, GARS, Techfest in January. This event provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to learn about the latest developments in amateur radio technology, share knowledge and experience, and network with other amateur radio operators. We had the opportunity to expose the world of DX and the SEDXC to hams both new and old, and also enjoyed meeting up with current club members and old friends.

The club booth at Techfest:



N4FN, the mainstay at the club booth:



Some old friends stopped by, looking for some DX pointers perhaps.:



Please mark your calendars for the Dalton Hamfest on Saturday February 24th. We will have a presence with a club booth and I am sure this will be a great opportunity to see many club members at the event.

I look forward to seeing you all at the February Zoom meeting, on Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 PM. This month, the SEDXC will welcome Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, as our guest speaker.

Here is the link for joining the Zoom event:

<https://www.sedxc.org/sedxc/zoom/index.htm>

73 John N4TOL



[sedxc.org/sedxc/DXElmers](https://www.sedxc.org/sedxc/DXElmers)



February Humor

De Neil Foster – N4FN



VP's Corner de K4NHW

(de Nathan Wood, K4NHW)

January proved to be a very good month for DX. I had virtually unlimited time to spend chasing DX. TX5S was very generous with the 21 band slots they contributed to my logbook. I am making great progress toward 5 band DXCC. AND I am excited to start a long-awaited project that has been in the planning stages for some time! (More on that next month) All in all, it was a great month.

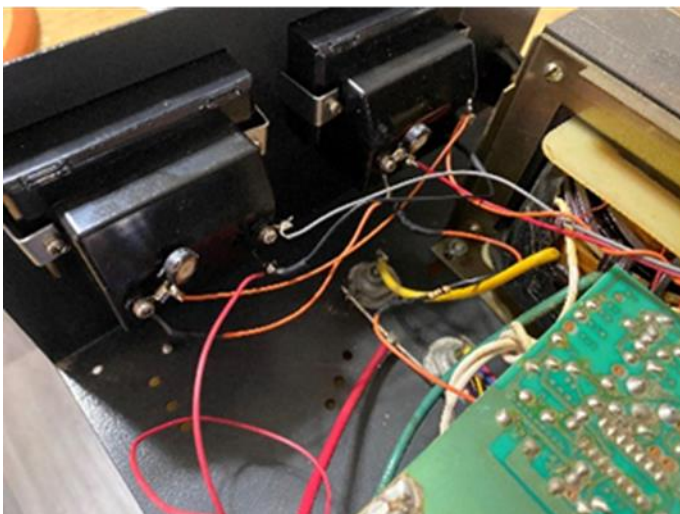
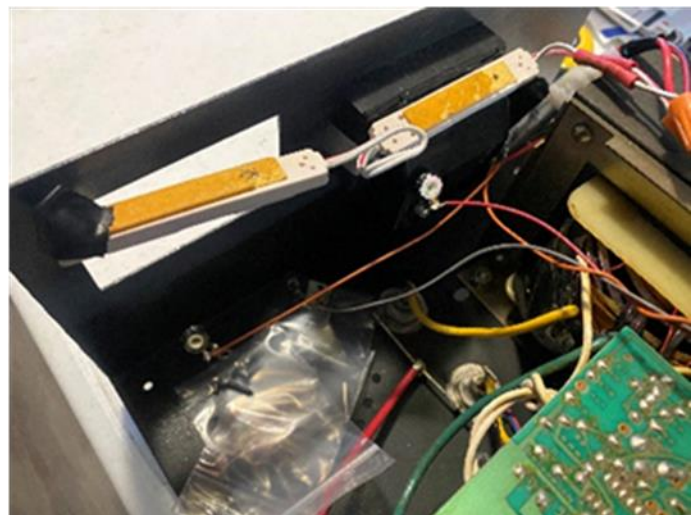
Speaking of projects, no one sent me any projects on their bench. But as promised, here is a project that is on my bench. For many of you, this isn't going to sound like much. For me, however, given that I do not have an electrical background, this is HUGE! If anyone wants to get me a Breadboard Kit, Christmas is less than 12 months away! Hi Hi.

I bought an Astron 35M at a local hamfest a few years ago. It was purchased as a spare

for the ones I already have in service. This particular one had backlights on the meters but they were very dim. I opened the case and found where someone added some makeshift LED strips in an odd way. They drilled a hole in the top of the existing meter case and used hot glue to attach the LED strip to cover the hole. (Only one of the 3 LED's were being used.) I took this as an opportunity to improve on this concept and

install some brighter lights. After searching the internet, I ordered some meters from Astron and installed them. It came with detailed instructions. It did involve working around a large capacitor of which I have a healthy fear. After some wiring and soldering, I was able to reassemble and test it out! It worked wonderfully and I didn't even get zapped!

Here are pictures of the before and after.



I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Yes... YOU! What new projects are on your bench? What are your DX goals for 2024? What would you like to learn more about? Email me your responses to Nathan.wood23@gmail.com. Let me know what is on your DX agenda and I'll share mine in the next months VP column. Don't leave me hanging.... Again!

Presentations

Last Month, we heard from Dick, W4PID. He gave us some great updates on Clublog and highlighted some of the helpful tools that are catered to the avid DXer. My favorites were the personalized DX Cluster and the propagation wizard. If you missed the presentation, you could check it out on the website at sedxc.org/zoom. You can find Dick's program notes below in this newsletter.

This month, the SEDXC will welcome Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, as our guest speaker! Bob is an American scientist and explorer. Schmieder has had a multidisciplinary career, broadly divided between physics and related physical sciences, and natural science and exploration. In most of his projects, he created and led teams of both professional scientists and volunteers. His work is documented in about 100 technical publications and 10 books.

He has traveled to all seven continents and about 30 countries worldwide, including three Atlantic Ocean crossings by boat. In 2011, he was inducted into the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. He will be giving us the Future of DX address! I have asked him to speak on the status of the hobby, past present and future. I am sure that we'll hear about his experiences along the way. Join me for this exciting presentation on February 15 th at 7PM. The zoom credentials can be found at the top of the front page of sedxc.org.

73 Nathan



Greetings, Fellow DXers!

TREASURER's Report – February 2024

TREASURER's Report – February 2024

- Checkbook Balance on February 1st: \$12,806.56
- Payments Made, month of January 2024:
 1. DXPedition Funding to:
 - a. 708AD DXPedition \$305
 - b. FW8GC DXPedition \$300
 - c. Dalton Hamfest table - \$10
 - d. Georgia Secretary of State Annual Registration Fee - \$85
 - e. Postage \$10.05
 - A DXPedition Funding request has been received from Gunter, DL2AWG for an activation of Kiribati, under the call sign of T32EU.
 - } March 13 – 26, 2024 are the dates for activation.
 - } T32 is #110 NA-EC.
 - } SEDXC Member Needs based on a Club Leagues sample of 25/96:
 - ♣ ATNO=5
 - ♣ Needs ½ Bands – 8;
 - ♣ Rest of sample will benefit with band fills

The EC will make a recommendation at the upcoming meeting for the above DXPeditions in addition for a memorial brick and certificate from the ARRL to commemorate the life of Bob Allphin, K4UEE.

The following has been received.

Hi Jeff,
Hi Friends from SEDXC,
I am Stan, LZ1GC(E6AM).
Jeff,

I wrote the paper E6AM QSLs for SEDXC members, which have contacts with E6AM - 53 members!

I already sent (before a hour) the package with these QSLs, to your (K1ZN) QRZ.COM address!

I hope that you will receive the package with these QSLs soon!

I am doing the last preparations for the travel to Wallis & Futuna - FW8GC & TX8GC DXpedition 2024.

Our departure from Sofia, Bulgaria to Wallis Island is on 15 February 2024.

On 19 February 2024 we must be on Wallis Island and I hope that the same day, we will be on the Air as FW8GC and TX8GC.

See you on the bands from there!

Thanks a lot for the support from SEDXC !!!

Thank you!

Kind Regards!

73! Stan, LZ1GC

As we move closer to 2024, I need to highlight a few things:

1. I have now served a decade as your Treasurer, and it has been an honor to do so. This past June I agreed to stay in office one additional year with the proviso that a new person come forward to “understudy” the SEDXC bookkeeping process and DXpedition funding application vetting process, etc., so as to make for a seamless transition to a new officer. I call for a volunteer to come forward and begin that understudy.
2. Likewise, our WebMaster has asked for a volunteer to begin that understudy. Please, SEDXC members, we ask for the next generation of officers to step forward.

73s & GUD DX,
Jeff / K1ZN, Treasurer

Around The Shack *(de Hal Kennedy N4GG)*



Around the Shack

February 2024 de N4GG



The GEARVAKf *"The 'f' is silent"* *Bulletin*

It's time this column returned to ham radio humor. For over 50 years the GEARVAKf Bulletin (“The 'f' is silent”) was ground zero for ham-related parody, irreverence, nonsense and apocryphal commentary. Once seen it was not easily forgotten – for better or worse. In it's own bizarre way it had impact. The bulletin began in the early 1960s; the final edition was in 2013 - probably.

Circulation was limited, not by design but by the lackadaisical attitude that pervaded everything GEARVAKf-related. Everything. The header at the top of the front page (reproduced above) was something of a blurred mess. That's not a reproduction problem. It was a mess the day it was created. The messy header served better as a running gag than as a representation of a fine upstanding publication - since it never was.

GEARVAKf stands for the Greater Enon Amateurradiovention and Kite Fly. It was started by Joe Ventolo, K8DMZ and Joel Rose, N8JR (sk). In the early 60s U.S. society and the ham radio community in particular were in a state of discord. The ARRL and the FCC had ginned-up “incentive licensing,” a system that included new license classes and the loss of privileges for some existing hams. It was adopted in 1964. To say the ham community was roiled would be an

understatement. The Viet Nam war was raging at that time too. Joe and Joel decided everyone needed to lighten up a bit - from that GEARVAKf was born.

K8DMZ continues to live at the same address in Enon, Ohio where he and Joel started GEARVAKf. Joe was in the editor's chair over the entire 50-plus year run. The bulletin always referred to Enon as "Greater Enon," despite the population being 1,200. The Dayton Hamvention was held in Dayton until recently (now Xenia), a mere 23 minute drive from Enon. As short a distance as that is, and in keeping with GEARVAKf logic, the Dayton Hamvention was always bypassed as a bulletin distribution point in favor of the Ft. Wayne hamfest - a three hour drive away. An armload of copies were given away in the flea market at Ft. Wayne every year. How many copies? This is GEARVAKf – nobody knows now because nobody knew then.

Early editions were typed (think typewriter) onto mimeograph stencils. A mimeograph machine could produce about 200 copies from a stencil before it had to be retired. Sometimes, but not always, multiple stencils were created. The mimeograph process limited print quality and the size of print runs.

The bulletin's page-two masthead remained stable over the years, although like everything else it sometimes wandered off-track into places unexpected. Here are excerpts of the GEARVAKf masthead:

"The Editor is always right"

Gearvakf is a prestigious ham radio and kite-flying organization. Members are selected *only* at the whim of the Gearvakf Secret Committee on Trusteeship, totally without regard to merit. Memberships are rarely granted. We discriminate indiscriminately. All life memberships are good for one year. Applications for membership are never accepted.

The Gearvakf Bulletin is published by Gearvakf, which is not responsible for its contents, and is distributed only at selected hamfests. Subscriptions are not available. We welcome short articles in the Gearvakf "style" which, *if published*, will be credited to the author by call sign or other alias. We do not pay for articles.

I became aware of GEARVAKf in 1980 and I'm still in touch with K8DMZ. I became an official GEARVAKf member in 1982 (figure 1) in response to explicitly requesting I never be a member.

Publication was erratic and unpredictable. Early-on there were two bulletins per year - spring and fall. By the 1990s there was one bulletin per year with additional "Special Late Breaking News" editions appearing at random. During the 1990s many editions had handwritten notes in the margins exclaiming "Last Edition – Ever!!" Those were always followed by the next edition.

In addition to the Ft. Wayne handouts, the bulletin was mailed via the USPS until email became widespread. It was often copied and passed around at work in violation of company rules. USPS subscriptions were \$1, which got you the next two editions. "Only send the amount of money you are prepared to lose" proclaimed GEARVAKf.

Once distribution moved to email, the expense of paper and postage ended and the bulletin became free. In actuality it always was free, more or less (everything GEARVAKf-related is "more or less"). If you *wanted* one and had no dollar, you could get one. In keeping with the shoestring nature of the enterprise, bulletins came in a variety of sizes. The bulletin was printed on whatever paper K8DMZ could scrounge up. Some were 8 ½ X 11, others were 7 X 8 1/2. My incomplete bulletin collection include white, pink, blue and yellow paper.

About 80% of the bulletin was written by volunteer authors – the rest by K8DMZ. My bulletin collection cites 43 contributors credited by callsign and five credited by name only. There were also articles credited to AMA64658, 6146B, 6L6GB, X, Operator 14, KVM5149, 400 Harry and Mitz (I think that's a cat).

Common GEARVAKf foils included the ARRL (referred to as the LRRA), the FCC, the CB band, politicians and governing bodies (towns, counties, states, countries, HOAs). Anything and anyone in the news was fair game, but a lot of the content came straight from author's imaginations, unconnected to anything real. Sometimes a "Suspect Radio Sales" catalog was included. Part two of articles would appear, there never having been a part one. Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, complained he

wasn't mentioned frequently enough (no kidding).

Running gags and a cast of fictional characters were a staple. Greater Enon was sometimes referred to as “Stagnant Pond.” Gorbinsky's mushroom farm catered hamfest dinners.

Here are a few article titles:

Mars could eat astronauts expert says

EPA recommends wind powered aircraft

Government shutdown stops worldwide ham radio communications

Ohio to tax Haley's comet

Interview with Santa Claus

FCC proposes sale of ham frequencies (prescient)

Satellite dish good wok

Humane traps for short antennas

Two meter band explodes

Guilt-stricken telephone companies eliminate charges

Bulletin plans large-type edition for hearing impaired

Traces of ancient 20 meter band unearthed

Nomograph to accurately convert Hz into CPS

High-test electricity for electric cars (prescient - Spring, 1982)

Is Wayne Green trying to buy 220-222 MHz?

40 meter band fire causes smoke damage on higher bands

Vacuum shortage politicized

Neon bulbs cause cancer

Etc., etc., etc. There are hundreds of these. You get the idea.

There was no guide for authors – hams and non-hams simply submitted articles when so moved. If you were a contributor you learned the GEARVAKf style by reading some of it. I'm still impressed at how consistent the tone of the articles is – it reads as if one person wrote it all. Joe Ventolo was a great editor.

Much of the content was topical, insightful and prescient. None of it was profane. Personal attacks were verboten. Articles were usually 150 words or less with one and two-liners mixed in. Drawings, schematics, equations and photos appeared

from time to time.

One of 50-odd GEARVAKf articles I wrote is included below. It was the lead story in the November, 2007 edition. K8DMZ told me he laughed so hard when he saw it that...well, you know.

If you would like to see more, you can Google search “GEARVAKf.” Unfortunately you will not find any complete editions, but you will find bulletin excerpts in the archives of various radio club newsletters.

Disappearing Ham Bands Finally Explained

The FCC confirmed yesterday that unidentified pranksters had starting renumbering the ham bands during a solar storm last July. Choosing just the right moment, when the bands were dead, the miscreants moved the 23 cm band labels to 70 cm. They then took the 70 cm signs and moved them to 432 MHz. Moving as fast as they could, they put the 432 MHz signs on two meters, moved the two meter labels to 50 MHz and then relabeled ten meters as six meters. On and on they went, but by the time they had the 40 meter signs taken down and were about to put them up on 80 meters, the storm abated and they were at risk of getting caught – so they threw the 40 meter signs into the Potomac River and hightailed it to parts unknown. In executive session, the FCC decided not to bother moving all the signs and labels back, and also decided not to tell anyone. Foreign broadcasters finally blew the whistle when they noticed the VSWR on their 40 meter megawatt broadcast transmitters had gone to infinity.

73,

Hal N4GG

25 Years Ago... *(de Van Herridge, N4VGE, Bulletin Editor)*



Greetings from the Editor. Don't forget to check SEDXC's website to get the latest club information. www.sedxc.org.

See link below for the SEDXC Bulletin from 25 years ago.
sedxc.org/sedxc/bulletins/sedxc0299.pdf

Expedition to YJ land, Vanuatu, announced for October 2024 by Bulletin Editor.

This is the DXpedition you have been waiting for. This two week DXpedition we are mixing Holiday and Serious DXing. We have limited openings but no matter what your style, you will be welcome. We will be in Vanuatu from October 16 - 30, 2024 during several contests including the CQ World-Wide SSB Contest. Timing will allow us to take advantage of the excellent Southern Hemisphere springtime propagation on top of the best sunspot activity in years. Since Vanuatu is #74 for most wanted phone on Clublog there should be plenty of pileups.

This DXpedition is open to all hams and their spouses. We have contracted with Vanuatu Luxury Holiday Homes on Efate Island for the Asana Estate just outside of the capital of Vanuatu, Port Vila, and have sent a deposit. Having five bedrooms and air conditioning it sleeps nine comfortably.. For

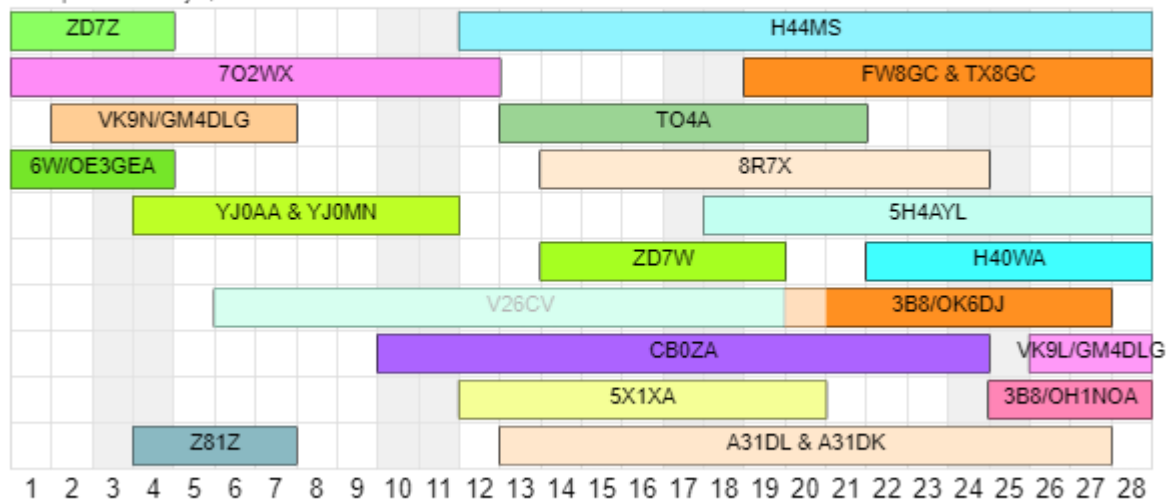
eight guests it will only cost \$1,500 US per person for two weeks and have one bed left over. Each person should have an additional budget of \$1,000 US for food, island transportation, and incidentals. Flight costs are not included which would fluctuate depending on departure city, class of flights, insurance and baggage. Shellback Cruises, 843-762-3888, is providing my flights at 33% of Google Flights. They provided my flight tickets for approximately \$3,000 from Charleston, SC.

In addition to operating as a DX station we will have the opportunity to operate POTA and IOTA. We have secured a QSL Manager to handle the over 40,000 expected contacts. If interested in joining this Expedition contact Van, N4VGE / YJ0VV, as soon as possible, only three more hams are needed.

The DX World Calendar/Timeline for February

FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: February 4, 2024



Edited by MM0NDX

FEBRUARY

 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:

https://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw_timeline_1_1.php

SEDXC Officers & Positions

John Tramontanis, N4TOL – President – iam4rb@gmail.com

Nathan Wood, K4NHW – Vice President -- nathan.wood23@gmail.com

Joel Levine, WA4HNL – Secretary -- jlevine@bellsouth.net

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN – Treasurer -- jacantor9@gmail.com

Verne Fowler, W8BLA – Activities Manager -- w8bla@arrl.net

SEDXC Appointed Positions

Chaz Cone, W4GKF – Webmaster – w4gkf@chazcone.com

Van Herridge, N4VGE – *SEDXC Bulletin* Editor – vanherridge@gmail.com

Fill out the form completely and send it to: Treasurer.SEDXC@Gmail.com

Entity Name / Call Sign	T32EU
Date of Application	Jan 23, 2024
Approx. Date and duration of Expedition	Mar 13-26, 2024
Web page	https://www.qrz.com/db/T32EU
Team leader / number of members:	DL2AWG Gunter Gassler / six
List name & call of each team member	Gunter Gassler DL2AWG Ernoe Ogonovszky DK2AMM Elmar Compans DF4GV Georg Tretow DL4SVA Frank Milatz DL1KWK Olaf Taesch DJ7TO
List DXPeditions that each team member above took part in	V6EU, T31EU, C21EU, V73D, XX9D, ZK3N, S79GG, J79WG, ZK1AWG, 3D2AW, 5W0GW, A35WG, 5R8WG, H44WG, YJ0AWG, 4S7GWG, KH8/DL2AWG, XR0YD, T2C, P29RO, HU1DL, XR0YD, XX9D, MD/DL4SVA, S7GWG, T3ØD, 5WØM, 9N7AN, (not everybody participated to each of these)
QSL manager / QSL route	DL2AWG / buro – direct - LOTW
Funding amount requested – please attach budget & show team’s contribution	200 to 500\$; budget details see separate list
Send Funds to:	paypal account for donations: dl4sva@darcd.de
Position on most wanted list – both global & North America – East Coast	Global: #68 (source: clublog)

	NA-EC: uups – no idea how to find this information...
Landing permit/operating permission approved (attach copy).	License T32EU enclosed
Overview of antennas & equipment to be taken on DXpedition	multi-band hex-beam, multi-band vertical DX-Commander, mono-band vertical half-wave 30m, mono-band vertical 80m, mono-band vertical 160m
Last time(s) this entity was activated	Dec 2023 by Dominik 3Z9DX (T32TT, mostly FT8)
Typical interval between activations	best guess: 1 year
Method of transportation to DXpedition site	Flight from Germany via Hawaii to Kiritimati
Your team's objective / strategy including social objective	Activate T32 in particular in CW, SSB and on low-bands
Callsign/Age of youngest Team member	DJ7TO / 60 yrs
SEDXC member initiating request	none
SEDXC member(s) participating, if any	none
SEDXC logo on QSL card & web page?	Yes, sure
Additional comments:	
vy 73	

Internal Use

Date published in the newsletter	
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Review/analysis of SEDXC Club Leagues member sample (N=)	ATNO: Band Fills:
Results of member review at the meeting: (approved / disapproved) Recommendation \$ _____	Recommended \$ _____
Funds disbursed on date:	
Funds disbursed by:	



Gunter GaBler Amateur Licence - T32EU.pdf