



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

February 1995

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV, President

Our SEDX club members turned out in usual big numbers for the 160 mtr CW contest, and could be heard in force up and down the band. Good numbers have been reported, despite the summer-like QRM on the contest weekend. Be sure to turn in your scores (remember, small scores will add up!) to Dave Thompson, K4JRB. For those of you who weren't geared up for the CW contest, get ready for the 160 phone contest, February 24 through 26. We can all make a difference this time!

Hope to see you all on February 21 to swap 160 stories and hear the exciting news about Ham Radio 95 and the DXPO.

CUL, 73 Delaine - KM4FV

VEEP BEEPS

by Dick Bentley, K2UFT, VP

The February meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30 PM or from 6 PM on at Hickory House if you want to join us for dinner. Either way, we'll be at the Days Inn, Roswell Road, just inside the Perimeter. Our program will feature Gordon Bloodworth, 5Z4FH, who was recently elected President of the Radio Society of Kenya. Gordon will talk about his various adventures over

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the years in Africa.

Good to hear that wall of RF from Georgia while we were at ZF1DX. From the Caymans, AB4RU was the loudest on the band by at least an S unit. The EWE receiving antennas were constructed easily (See February QST for details), worked reasonably well with a Palomar preamp and showed directivity as desired. Many thanks to my buddy W3CZ, whose toroid winding skills and willingness to support our effort made the EWE antennas possible. One of the transformers is permanently inscribed with Bill's call sign and will no doubt see many year's of service. His equipment joins the WA4CUG memorial beverage wire coil in the ZF1A inventory!

Our score doubled from last year but was far short of expectations. There's just something about 85 degree temperatures (75 at nite), turquoise colored lagoons, conch fritters, jerk chicken, turtle stew and RED STRIPES that beats the pants off 20 over static crashes at midnite.

The highlight of our trip was Cayman Island Field Day. Sunday about 75% of the island hams got together at the Public Beach, set up an old FT757, Honda generator and R5 Vertical. We must have logged 300 or so QSO's for ZF1A as we watched the waves hitting the shore about 30 feet from our picnic table. The Cayman Amateur Radio Society treated us to sausages on the grill, sodas and dessert prepared by the only Cayman YL, ZF2CS (Cayman Sunshine). Great eyeball QSO's were had with the Society members. If it hadn't been for the lady who evicted us at 3 PM in favor of her daughter's birthday party, we'd probably still be there chewing the fat! What a great finale for another great adventure.

See you in the pile ups! -73 Dick, K2UFT

160 METER SSB CONTEST

Please help the club out and participate!! Send in those scores!! Get those antennas up! Help beat Frankfort this year! If you need help, CALL!

TREASURER'S REPORT

-de John Tramontanis, N4TOL

Balance 1/1/95 (Checkbook)	\$2,430.78
Income	
160M plaques	80.00
South Georgia	50.00
Membership	77.00
Raffle & shirts	97.00
Total Income	<u>304.00</u>
Expenses:	
PO Box rental	58.00
Newsletter (Jan)	128.36
Newsletter (Dec)	88.24
QSL bureau	7.00
VCR and meeting supplies	24.85
DXPO pins	434.50
Bank Charges	10.33
Total Expenses	<u>751.28</u>
Balance Checking 8/30/94	<u>\$1,983.50</u>

Of this ending balance, \$770.00 is earmarked for the cluster fund, resulting from voluntary contributions from the club membership at renewal time. The club is also holding \$600.00 for 160 meter award plaques. This leaves \$613.50 in the club general fund.

- 73 de N4TOL John

MINUTES SEDXC MEETING 9/20/94

-Buddy Harrell, W4OUN, Sec.

Minutes From January Meeting Held January 17, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Delaine, KM4FV. After introductions by all, the floor was turned over for general announcements: Phil, W4GTS, suggested that we all consider what could be done to help out with the emergency conditions in Japan.

Pete, K4LDR, reminded everyone that he was still handling outbound QSL's. Extra rosters are available if you received one in the mail that was printed on only one side.

Pins for DXPO are available for \$5.00.

A "Thank you" was received from the South Georgia DXpedition for the financial and moral support provided. We will probably try to put together a bulk mailing for the handling of QSL cards. More information should be available at the next meeting.

Jim, W4QO, discussed plans for the DXPO and the need for volunteers to assist. See or call Jim if you are interested. The combined Hamfest/DXPO will be held April 8 & 9. It appears that some excellent speakers and programs are being lined up. More information should be available at the next meeting.

Following the prize drawings, the program was presented. K4JRB gave an informative and interesting presentation on the 160M contest rules, operating tips, and antenna suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00PM.

73's and DX, Buddy/W4OUN

DX TIDBITS

-Rick, N4XMX

I first of all want to thank Randy, K4ODL, and Tad, WA4CUG for their help putting up the big GAP antenna the Sunday before the CQ 160 M contest last month! The manual says you need at least three people. Wrong! We had five and barely got it up. Of course, the fact that we put up a 45 foot antenna up in the middle of a snake-infested (ha! didn't tell them that!) swamp filled with impenetrable six-foot privet bushes had no bearing on the degree of difficulty. Good thing the neighbors were out of town and missed the show!

When I first hooked up the MFJ SWR analyzer to the antenna, everything looked good. As soon as I hooked up the coax, sometimes it would be fine and the next minute it would be off the scale. After two days of soul searching, cable swapping and &%"\$&!, I found the problem. It boiled down to an oxidized silver plated barrel connector next to the antenna. Sandpaper and a file on the mating surfaces fixed the problem. I remember what I have read and heard: "Do not skimp on your connectors, buy Amphenol!" I believe that. The cheap silver connectors oxidize over time and have another problem. Most have a Teflon insulator between the shell and the male center pin. This tends to melt when high (continued p 3)

DXPO '95

- The Big Event Is Taking Shape

-Jim Stafford, W4QO

The big event for SEDX this spring will be DXPO '95 and plans are proceeding rapidly towards a very successful event. Held on April 8 and 9 at the North Atlanta Trade Center, DXPO '95 will be held concurrently with the newest hamfest in Atlanta - Ham Radio '95, so there will be plenty of places to spend money besides the DXPO! All major ham vendors have now bought booths at the hamfest and between 5 and 10 thousand hams are expected for the hamfest. It should be a good one - no rain, no mud, no buses - just blooming dogwoods! DXPO itself will consist of activities in three major areas.

First, forums for all DX interests will be held from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and from 10 AM to 1 PM on Sunday. Our speakers will include Tony DePrato, WA4JQS of the Peter I expedition, John Fung-Loy, PA3CXC/D2 - Angola, and Al Hernandez, VP8SGP, who will be recently back from South Georgia Island. Many other speakers will cover topics such as antennas, computers and operating strategies.

Second, there will be a hospitality suite at the Marriott Gwinnett Place, just south of I-85 at Pleasant Hill Road, on Saturday evening from 8 PM to ???. We have made special arrangements to have our hospitality time so that the vendors displaying at the ham convention can also be in attendance. In this way, we will have our own private access to these folks, asking questions and getting their views on the latest and greatest equipment. We also benefit in that HR 95 will provide a good line of edible goodies for us so as to attract the vendor community. We have invited over 30 DX clubs in the southeast and in fact around the country to participate in this event, a great time to trade stories and tales. Ed Sleight, K4SB, will be the hospitality coordinator. Contact Ed to act as a host for one of the participating clubs at the hospitality suite. 439-0116.

Third, a Breakfast Banquet is being planned for Sunday morning in time to get on the road or to return for the Sunday forums and hamfest. We will have the breakfast at Shoney's right around the

corner from the hamfest, just off I-85 at Indian Trail (south). We are still working out the details of our speaker for the breakfast but it will be a good choice.

If you would like to help on DXPO '95, please contact Delaine, KM4FV, at 993-9758 or Jim, W4QO, at 993-9500. If we each do a little, we can make the work easy. One area we especially want to cover is a club booth in DX ROW at the hamfest where DX cards can be checked and other fraternal activities can occur. Please see Nancy Draheim, NK4U - 516-4413, to sign up to cover the booth for a couple of hours. There are many more assignments. Let us know if you can help. One last thing - be sure to see a club officer to buy a DXPO '95 pin. These high quality pins are a collectors item, and your \$5 purchase provides your support for DXPO 95.

P49I, CQ 160 M CW

-Mike, K4PI

Thanks to all for enduring the QRN to give me a QSO this year. Score will be down for me this year I believe, but I am still putting it into a program. I was again at P43AS QTH. He has a new shack separate from his house that is available for rental with all the amenities. He has an ICOM735 and antennas, 2 bedrooms with bath, 4 single beds with washer and dryer, stove, fridge, TV, etc. He is asking \$70/day for two people and a few extra dollars for more. Licences must be obtained 6 to 8 weeks prior to going. If anyone is interested, contact me.

-Mike

(continued from p 2) heat is applied. High heat is needed to make a really good solder joint between the shell and the braid. Amphenol connectors have a bakelite type insulator which is much more resistant to heat. The price at the Frost Fest in Virginia last month had the silver and the Amphenol connectors going for the same \$1 each. The biggest problem with cables is a lack of a good ground solder connection. You have been told.

BTW, on the same subject, the Solder-It kit that Fred sells is WONDERFUL!! Joint all types of metals together. Required, a must have. More next time!

CUL in the (160 M) pileups...-Rick, N4XMX