



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

## W4NT

THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB

February 1997

### NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, Feb. 18th, 7:30PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Steve Schmidt, K4WA, President

Every now and then, something happens that shakes one's faith in physical laws. For some, it's earthquakes. Having the stable, substantive earth shaking beneath the feet, upsetting the balance, deluding the inner ear... it inspires a sort of panic, a temporary insanity, or surreal detachment from once-normal surroundings. I've had only a minor brush with an earthquake; a couple years ago in Wyoming while skiing... well, sleeping, actually. Three o'clock in the morning, a rumble and shake woke me, a mumbled "what was that?" Feeling, seeing nothing, I went back to sleep. It was the next day's news that associated my temporary nocturnal disorientation with one of nature's mysteries.

I have experienced a terror very similar in its disorienting effects, most recently in KP4-land. The dreaded contrary wire antenna. Mind you, I've had my successes with wire. Even now, I am amazed at the effectiveness of my inverted-V for 160 meters that I built in my back yard. Those successes are the foundation of an apparently misplaced confidence in my antenna engineering capabilities. They are the guys and cement which make the subsequent rending, crashing failure all the more horrifying and inexplicable. It started with the "T" antenna.

Sure, it was untested; at least, in my yard. On the other hand, it was in the ON4UN book, and it made sense. Endorsed by venerable giants of the hobby, it was almost guaranteed. We took all the parts with us. We constructed the thing in a deep valley, supported on the crests by push-up masts and hundreds of feet of line. We carefully measured the vertical section, then the tophat. We soldered, connected and finally, erected. We laid ground radials in the rain, chasing cows away,

wearily wiping dung and briars from our shoes. Finally, exhausted, wet and dirty, we decided to test the thing. It didn't work. It dipped on the MFJ 259 at around 6 MHz. Dipped to an SWR of 20:1 or so. We double-checked everything, replaced the pigtail connection at the base and tested it there, with the same result.

OK, so it was untested. Perhaps we did something wrong, but we certainly couldn't figure out what it was. Fortunately, by cutting off one leg of the horizontal portion, we would end up with the classic inverted-L. We punted. After several hours more work, cow-chasing and rain, we had the inverted-L erected. It didn't work. We checked everything, tested it at the base, retraced every step. Same results as the abortive "T" antenna, a dip around 6 MHz that barely registered. We verified the MFJ was not at fault. It was somewhere around this time that the aforementioned disorientation, panic and detachment set in. Subsequent difficulties with a simple 160 dipole did little to renew my faith in my sensibilities.

I'm almost cured now. I can think about the effort without shaking hands and cold sweats. The out-of-town recuperation may have done me some good; maybe it was that time-curing-all-wounds thing. I could have talked here about a wire success or two, but that would have made for boring reading. Anyway, how many of you would hang in through a rendition of "I put up this antenna and it worked?" There may even be some therapeutic effect from relating my tale to a sympathetic crowd. I think I feel better already. Perhaps this would be a good weekend to try to finish my two-way beverage.

I hope to see you at the next AA (antennas anonymous) meeting in Sandy Springs.

73, Steve K4WA

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## FROM THE VP

-Paul Pescitelli, K4UJ, VP

Thanks to those who worked Steve and I during the CQ WW 160 CW. Operating from KP4 was fun for us. At this months meeting we are going to tell a short story on how two newbies to the DXpedition scene wasted two days of blood, sweat and tears.

Topband has been pretty good this season. I have managed to put about 5 new ones in the log. Hope you're enjoying it, soon we will hear nothing but the hiss of summer on 160.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

73 - Paul K4UJ

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 12/31/96 (Checkbook)	\$2280.44
Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	
Bank Charges	10.00
Nov/Dec Newsletter	107.36
January Newsletter	59.18
QSL Bureau and postage	14.95
160 plaque account	201.84
Door Prizes	44.05
Balance Checking 1/31/97	\$2078.60

The treasury appears to be in good shape, that's the good news. Of the January balance, \$99.28 is reserved in the 160 Contest Plaque Account and \$990.15 is in the Cluster Account. So, if you can add (or depend on a calculator like I do), that leaves \$989.17 in the General Account. And, as you will see in next month's listing, the P.O. Box rent had to be paid so the account is still lower. But we're still solvent and, barring any more DXpeditions, we should make out pretty well. Thanks for the new one VKØIR crew. We're looking forward to a great program.

73, Nancy, NK4U, Treasurer

## MINUTES

-Randy Tudor, K4ODL, Sec.

January 1997 SEDX Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by K4WA Steve. Introductions were made and the guest list was passed for everyone to sign - seventeen present. Minutes approved from the last meeting. Steve ask who had not worked the VKØ. Most people have worked the VKØ, but the signal has been up and down. Old business - New SEDX badges on order.

Steve led a discussion about the 160 test. Several club members have participated in the past and we are encouraging everyone to work as much as you can and submit your score for the club. Steve and Paul will be working the Test from KP4/K4UJ. Mike - K4PI will operate from P49I. Please try to work our club members.

The new club roster will be available next month.

New business - Phil Latta needs help with a horizontal loop.

The DX repeater (147.195) is down due to repairs in progress.

Announcements -

VKØIR Jan 13-27

TXØK (Kerguelen) maybe - Feb. 1 or 2nd.

ZYØSG/SK Jan 25 - Feb 8th

FT5ZG Feb - Nov 97

Dave K4JRB has a Wilson MT-61B Tubular self supporting tower for sale \$300.00 or trade..

Program - K2UFT Dick gave a program on a 160 meter antenna. Dick had put up the inverted L made from ladder line and discussed some improvements in the design.

Paul K4UJ gave a demo of a code practice program RUFZ and PED. RUFZ is very good for building speed and PED is a CT simulator. Both are available from the Internet. Both programs are a lot of fun and may help you prepare for the contest.

-Randy, K4ODL

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# SEDXC ROSTER ENCLOSED!!

## BEEPS DE K2UFT

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

Activities for January? What could beat the thrill of the chase to put VKØIR in your log? To add to the usual drama and pathos on the air (jammers sure do make it harder, don't they?), we had the thrill of two or three messages a day from John, ON4UN, describing the operators, the equipment, the landing, the operation.

We had the luxury of actually offering the team feed back on their operating practices and saw adjustments made to help maximize the QSO's. Within two days we knew whether we were in the log or not, no doubt helping to limit QRM from insurance QSO's a bit.

The final thrill for me was to get several messages on the Internet addressed to me privately assuring me that the crew had indeed safely departed the island. There really are some caring people out there in cyberland and of course I really cared since two of our members were on the expedition. I guess the ultimate vote of confidence was the chatter on the Heard Reflector about sending the same crew to P5 to do the job right!

I think Bob, KK6EK, summed it up best in his poetic piece written from Heard (Heard Message #88) and partially quoted here: "... perhaps the most astonishing accomplishment of the VKØIR team will not appear in the statistics... 20 individuals, representing 9 different national cultures, have worked together harmoniously, without the slightest hint of animosity or territoriality that usually characterizes these projects.

In my 20 years of leading expeditions to remote and difficult places, this is by far the finest team I have ever had the pleasure to work with. You will hear this theme again and again as the other individuals have the chance to tell their particular stories: the VKØIR team must have set some sort of record for genuine respect and mutual pleasure in participating in this project. In fairness, I should add that a considerable portion of the technology that we have used here, such as uploading logs to web servers and getting pilot feedback by e-mail, was developed on the 1995 XRØY Easter Island expedition, so in some sense the team is even larger than the 20 men here now.

...I am sure I will never again see this place.

This place will be unaffected by our visit. But trust me, for us it has been an E-ticket ride into a fantasy world."

-Bob KK6EK

The US QSO statistics:

W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
2179	2685	1737	3639	1576	1818	1500

W8	W9	WØ	KH6	KL7	KP4
2075	2033	1753	22	92	125

There will be plenty of statistical analysis forthcoming but just by inspection it appears that in general their propagation forecasts were pretty well on the mark in terms of the West Coast disadvantage - one place you definitely did not want to be was in Hawaii (assuming you needed Heard Island!) What will we do with our spare time now?

The DX Machine on 195 is back up again but is relatively useless in the Perimeter Center area, unless you enjoy listening to white noise. Until the situation improves, I checked with the Atlanta Radio Club repeater management and they would welcome our use of 145.35 which is located on the Fox Tower on Chestnut Mountain and has been under-utilized in the past. 146.82 is also behaving better these days and would be a good alternative.

This just in from.... Uncle Sam's Mail:

Scores:

K4OGG- NA QSO Party CW: 565 QSO's, 154 Multipliers, 87,010 points

AA4S - 160 CQWW CW 641 QSO's, 53 States/Prov. 29 Countries 134,070 pts

AA4S is looking for an operator(s) for the SSB Test - contact Ron if you are interested.

See you at the next meeting.

-73, Dick, K2UFT Activities Manager

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## DX TIDBITS

**-Rick, N4XXM**

The anticipation, the hunt, and finally the QSO, what a show! The VKØIR DXpedition has set the mark for all future ones. The Internet confirmation was just dessert. It certainly kept me from making insurance contacts. Thanks to everyone involved!

CU in the pileups...

-Rick, N4XXM

FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME	CALLSIGN	ADDRESS	CITY	STA	ZIPCODE	COUNTRY	HOMEPHONE	WORKPHONE	EMAILNAME
Ron	Bailey	AA4S	420 Community Road	Shelby	NC	281528230		7044870337		
Hurbert	Hampton	AD4AM	85 Stephens Drive	Covington	GA	30209		7703850668		
Chuck	Calmbacher	AD4JU	366 Rockland Way	Lawrenceville	GA	30245		7709628498	7709628270	
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Bill	Strickland	K4EL	355 Segrest Circle	Athens	GA	30605		7705492847		
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Steve	McElroy	K4JPD	5587 Five Notch Trail	Douglasville	GA	30135		7709426226	7709643530	
Dave	Thompson	K4JRB	4166 Mill Stone Court	Norcross	GA	30092		7704480588		
Bill	Jay	K4KG	5106 Sweetwater Church Rd	Douglasville	GA	30134		7709423192		
Dean	Fredriksen	K4KR	570 Emerald Parkway	Sugar Hill	GA	30518-5664				
Rob	Hazen	K4MY	1105 Woodridge Way	Carton	GA	30114		7703457384	7705412882	
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Stephanie	Kauten	KE4GSF	558 Arden Oaks Court	Atlanta	GA	30305-1955		4042339700		
Sonny	Marsh	KE4LDJ	3042 Gant Quarters Circle	Marietta	GA	30068		7705781974	7704770002	
Jan	Eklund	KE4RAN	4344 Highbourne Drive NE	Marietta	GA	30066		7705784698		
Keith	Hylton	KE4TEG	4738 North Trail NE	Marietta	GA	30066		7709260851	7709965406	
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Guy	West	NOMMA	1206 Treestumitt Pkwy	Duluth	GA	30136		7708139355	7702639200	

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Nancy	Draheim	NK4U	4133 Lynette Court	Kennesaw	GA	30144		7705164413		
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