



Bulletin



March 2016

From the Pres

Wey K8EAB

Dalton Hamfest

Activities Manager John-N4TOL had two tables set up with promotional materials and several FOR SALE items.

New Members



Bob Groves
NB4F

Paul Hansen
W6XA

Paul Hansen can repair almost any radio and lots of other ham equipment ... Paul has moved back to Tucker, GA after living in Anderson, SC for that past few years. Welcome back, Paul!

continued on page 2

Veep's Report

Vaden NN4K

Last Month's Meeting

The February meeting featured "Show and Tell" for the program. This brought forth several items by members. No one brought anything that was impossible to carry out. But Chuck, AE4CW presented a very nicely constructed antenna matching unit along with reference articles for others who might be interested in home-brewing their own. All of the presentations were excellent and we appreciated them showing their works.

This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday March 17th @ 7:30 PM
Location: Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital
Details at www.sedxc.org

Title: Campbell Island ZL9HR
Speaker: Glenn KE4KY



Glenn Petri KE4KY, who provided us with a program in October 2015, has agreed to do another webcast on his 2012 DXpedition to Campbell Island, ZL9HR. We look forward to hearing more detail and seeing images he has of that location. Glenn and other hams that spend personal funds and put themselves at risk while traveling to remote islands are appreciated.

continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** From the Pres
- 1** Veep's Report
- 2** Activities Chairman Report
- 2** Treasurer's Journal
- 4** FS/K8EAB Picture Gallery
- 5** How I Almost Became Rare DX

From the Pres (cont.)

March Meeting

We will have a remote presentation by Glenn-KE4KY ... please see VP-Vaden's comments about this presentation elsewhere in this Bulletin.

DX Is

In March, we can turn our attention to VKØEK, FT4JA, 3C7A, and others ... all will be ATNOs for me.

FS/K8EAB (French St. Martin)

I had a great time working lots of Atlanta folks from FS/K8EAB ... 3,010 contacts, 78 Entities, 48 States, 30 Zones, and 6 continents ... all with 100 watts to various Buddipole antennas and all CW ...

Our 8-person team included W3FF, W6HFP, KC4VG, KB9AVO, WZ1P, W7ZT, K4ZGB, and yours truly ... we worked hard and played hard with dining out trips to several 5-star restaurants. See pictures of p. 4.

Jim W4QO Update



I was delighted to receive an email from W4QO shortly after returning from St. Martin ... you may remember Jim went on a Buddipole trip to St. Lucia in the past ... Jim is recovering, but still needs our thoughts and prayers ...

Administrivia

The Christmas/Holiday Party will be coordinated by Paul Kelly-W4KLY. Thanks, Paul, for heading this up.

Elections for new SEDXC officers will be held at the June SEDXC meeting ... if you have an interest in presenting your name for consideration, please **contact me off-line at: weymouth01@comcast.net**.

73, and good DX!

Wey K8EAB ❖

Activities Chairman

Dalton Hamfest

A fine time was had by many SEDXC members at the Dalton Hamfest on Saturday, February 27th. The club signed up one new member and also recorded one membership renewal. Also, several members peddled some rare and valuable items at the club swap table.

Thanks to Wey Walker, K8EAB, Charles Pennington, K4GK, Dale Nordin, K4HGG, Chuck Catledge, AE4CW and Vaden McDonald, NN4K for their participation and efforts to make the event a success for the club.

Coming up:

Georgia QSO Party: April 9-10
<http://georgiasoparty.org/>

Calhoun Hamfest: April 23
<http://www.k4woc.com>

73,

John N4TOL ❖

Treasurer's Journal

Balance on Hand as of Feb 29th: \$9102.78

Deposits - month of Feb:
\$25 - meeting raffle
\$30 - membership renewals

Checks Written month of Feb:
\$160.27 for amortization of party debt
\$500 for NCDXF Beacon Project
\$20 - DARC Table at Dalton Fest

73,

Jeff K1ZN ❖

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SEDXC OFFICERS

President: Wey Walker, K8EAB
Weymouth01@comcast.net

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vadenmac@aol.com

Secretary: Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK
backacre348@att.net

Treasurer: Jeffrey Cantor, K1ZN
k1zn@att.net

Activities: John Tramontanis, N4TOL
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Appointed Positions

SEDXC Bulletin Editor: Clark Macaulay, WU4B
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Membership Committee Chairman
Bill Barr, N4NX
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Webmaster: Chaz cone, W4GKF
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Club Communications

SEDXC Webpage: www.sedxc.org

SEDXC Chat Room: details on webpage

SEDXC Reflector: details on webpage

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Veep's Report (cont.)

April 2016 Meeting

In lieu of meeting at Piedmont Hospital for the regular scheduled meeting, we are going to provide a 'Field Trip' to the contest operation site owned and operated by Rick NQ4I near Griffin, GA. This contest operation site has won multiple operator, multiple transmitter contests and is always a contender in most major CQ and ARRL contests. You can get an idea of the operation by viewing the website, www.nq4i.com. There you can read about the details that exceed the space available in the SEDXC Bulletin.

See you in the pileups,

Vaden NN4K ❖

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FS/K8EAB



We were hosted for operating from the Dutch side by Tom Metz-PJ7TM and his XYL Jane ... we set-up Buddipole antennas and started some good stateside pile-ups using the PJ7 prefix. This is the PJ7TM Villa.

We were not a "Tent & Generator" DXpedition!



Tom Metz took a bunch of us sight-seeing on his whaler through the St. Martin harbor with it's huge collection of "Mega-Yachts" ... one that was too big to berth and had to anchor out was the "Eclipse", a Russian-owned yacht that has a missile defense system on board. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eclipse_yacht.

The One that Got Away - How I almost became rare DX

Phil Graitcer W3HZZ

When I got the word from CDC last November that I was going to Guinea to help in their efforts to stop Ebola, two thoughts ran through my mind. I'd have a tough, challenging public health assignment that would make a difference, and I could get a rare Guinea 3XY amateur radio call. I'd find out what it's like on the other of a pile up.

I was so busy preparing for the trip, getting my shots, security clearances, and learning about Ebola, that I didn't have time to research amateur radio in Guinea before I left; I'd figure it out when I got there. I wasn't taking gear - I was worried about customs - I'd look up local amateurs, invite myself over, and use their rigs.

My CDC work in Guinea was demanding - I was implementing the use of a new test to detect Ebola - and I was working 12-hour days, six days a week, and even a bit on Sundays. About four weeks into my tour, I finally had a chance to think about tracking down radio amateurs in Guinea. A search of QRZ.COM showed about 20 calls, mostly Europeans, who had been in Guinea. Most, it seemed, were DXpeditions. There were no local addresses. I sent emails to everyone on QRZ. Most were returned. I asked my colleagues: folks at the Embassy and in the World Health Organization or the Red Cross. Had they heard about any amateur radio operators in Guinea? My inquiries got nowhere, and I was beginning to worry if I asked too many questions about radio transmitters, some would think I was a spy.

Google turned out to be my friend. I found a contact for the Voodoo Contest Group, organized by G3SXW, Roger Western. He wrote back and told me that a Belgian businessman helped them getting their license. He hadn't heard from him in years, but he still had a LinkedIn account. I contacted Karel, who wrote back immediately. Karel Warezeggers, 3XY2A/ON4QY, has been in Guinea since 1999. He sells repeaters, towers and has the contract to dredge the harbor. He also has a collection of Russian rigs and military transceivers, all left by hams that had been in Guinea. "Yes, it is easy to get a license in Guinea. Just write a request for a license to the Post and Telecommunications (PTT), in your most formal French, and you'll get one."

I wrote my request and went to the PTT. When I tried to find the amateur radio office, I got a blank stare. Clearly amateur radio was not well known activity in Guinea. Finally, I found the "Autorite de Regulation des Postes and Telecommunications". It licenses cell phone companies and TV stations. I left my request with a secretary. A week later I heard from a Mr. Traore. He heads the "Division Veille Technologique" - literally the office of "old technology - the office in charge of amateur radio licenses. (Since Guinea has mandated that all communications - cell phones, television - must be digital, radio is classified as an old technology.)

When the French quit Africa, two legacies remained - good bread and a robust bureaucratic system. I tasted the bread; now I was about to learn about bureaucracy. Mr. Traore gave me two forms to complete, requesting more details: my address, what frequencies I would be using, how many kilometers my signal would cover, and the type and serial number of equipment I was using. I also needed a copy of my passport and visa. The forms needed to be signed and stamped with my official seal. In addition, I needed a "certificate of conformity" for my transmitter and its technical specifications. I had no equipment but guessed that Elecraft would know the kind information Guinea wanted. Elecraft sent me a copy of the European certificate of conformity and a paper describing the architecture of the K3.

Almost there! With the Elecraft documents and my completed forms, I went back to Mr. Traore's office. He took the documents and said he would work on my file. Later that day he called me back - could I translate the Elecraft documents into French?

I did the translation and sent the forms back. Another few days passed and Mr. Traore calls me, "Votre dossier est pret." Finally, I was going to have a license. I rushed down, only to learn that although he had been completed the file, it still had to go to the director who would sign off. "But I am only here for three more days!"

"That not a problem, I'll send the file over and later this afternoon. I could pick it up today and pay for my license." But, the director wouldn't be able to work on my file until Friday - the day after I left. If anything happened in the meantime, call me.

Nothing happened. I boarded a midnight Air France flight to Paris. A week later, Karel sent me an email - he had received an email; the license was ready.

Too late, I was gone, probably for good, but if I ever return, there's completed file, a 3XY call, and a bill for one million Guinea francs ready for me to pick up.

Phil W3HZZ ❖

