



Bulletin



March 2020

From the Prez



Dick K5TF

Mike ND4V and I have been closely monitoring breaking news updates and Metro Atlanta area closures/cancellations relating to the preventive measures being taken to limit the contracting and spread of the COVID-19 virus. While the risk of contracting COVID-19 remains low in Georgia, we feel that it is better to err on the side of caution and be proactive, given that our meeting takes place in a hospital environment, whether good or not good. The March 19th SEDXC meeting scheduled in the Rich Auditorium at Piedmont Hospital is hereby **cancelled**, and the Pitcairn Island program to have been presented by Greg Marco W6IZT will be rescheduled. Updates forthcoming.

73,

Dick K5TF ❖

This Month's Meeting

The meeting for March has been **cancelled**. Please see comments by Dick K5TF, adjacent column.

VP's Corner



Mike ND4V

Orlando Hamcation and Dalton are in the books. Time to start thinking about Xenia aka Dayton. I suppose we should be flattered, the SEDXC tradition of kicking off the Dayton weekend with a dinner has been picked up by several groups. **(News Flash: Dayton Hamvention cancelled—Editor)**. For the past two years, we barely filled two tables at the Amber Rose Restaurant. The question I have for the 20 that attend is, do we do it again or do we join with the CW ops or another group? Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks to Mickey Baker, N4MB for the insightful talk on ARRL from the perspective of our SE Division Board member.

Speaking of programs, Gregg Marco W6IZT will share his experience of visiting Pitcairn Island and meeting the descendants of the HMS Bounty mutineers. Be sure and check the club's website as it gets closer to meeting time ... if the virus continues to spread, we may have to postpone the March meeting.

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25 Years Ago in SEDXC

Can Someone Tell Me Why...?



John K4BAI

Can someone tell me why, generally, SEDXC members either do not participate in DX contests or, if they do, do not post their claimed scores to the 3830 score reflector? At one time, SEDXC was one of the clubs in the USA that submitted the most score in club aggregate score competitions in major contests. As a result of that, SEDXC was a club that was permitted to select a WRTC team championship team captain for WRTC 1996 in San Francisco. That's how I got to be a team captain and with W4AN come in second place. Now, if someone is a member of SEDXC, but not a member of SECC or GCG, scores almost never appear on 3830.

I can't believe that members of SEDXC only want to meet once a month and chase new country DX stations only and not participate in DX contests. Maybe so, but why not participate and help make these events successful and in the process submit scores to the 3830 reflector and get some good publicity for SEDXC? Not being critical, but mainly curious.

73,

John K4BAI ♦

Around the Shack de N4GG/4



Station Un-Design Tips

Here is a rainy-day task: Think through the need, cost, and benefit as well as the unwanted, unintended and unanticipated consequences of every nut, bolt, wire, fuse, power strip, connector, insulator, fan, plug, socket, jumper cable, filter, balun, three wire to two wire AC adapter, "lightning protector" (typically useless and/or installed wrong), ground rod, LCD display and piece of gear in your shack. That list is incomplete but you get the idea. Below are three examples of items that might be in your shack that you might be better off without. When working as an engineering manager an important part of my job was helping design engineers avoid designing-in unnecessary parts. As technology progressed unnecessary parts included unnecessary microprocessors, memory, software and firmware.

Seriously, take an hour and think through your station piece by piece.

Example 1 – An easy one

That AC power strip that's plugged into another AC power strip, put there in the days you had nine things to plug in...and now you only have three...maybe that second one should come out and go into a closet?

Example 2 – Stand-alone in-line wattmeters

If your gear is modern, you have a wattmeter/SWR bridge built into your radio. Medium to high-end amplifiers have wattmeter/SWR bridges built in as well. Virtually all antenna tuners have a built in wattmeter/SWR bridge. A stand-alone in-line wattmeter is of some use on the output of an inexpensive amp like an AL-811 (and its many variants) or an SB-220 because those don't have one. Even those amps however have relative power output meters and you can get by with that and nothing else. If your amp has a wattmeter, or you have no amp and your radio has one, what's the justification for another?

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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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VP Corner (cont.)

April (tentatively) we will learn about what it takes to talk to the International Space station.

Have you decided which of the officer positions you are best suited for? Let Dick Baxter, K5TF know! All slots are available.

73,

Mike ND4V❖

Treasurer's Journal

Balance on hand as of February 29: \$11,232.

Checks Paid During Past Month:

- \$30, Georgia QSO Party

73,

Jeff K1ZN❖

Congratulations!



Paul Branson KA4YZR won the Annual SEDXC Raffle Prize of half the cost of a coach air ticket to attend the 2020 International DX Convention. Congratulations, Paul!

Since this year's Convention has been cancelled due to the Corona virus outbreak, Paul has a rain check for next year.

Around the Shack (cont.)

Meanwhile, a wattmeter is a good piece of test equipment to have around, as is a dummy load. But in line all the time? I keep a Bird 43 wattmeter on my test equipment shelf.

At N4GG both radios have built-in wattmeters, both amps have built-in wattmeters and each amp is followed by a high-power antenna tuner that has yet another built-in wattmeter. A visitor once asked me why I didn't have a wattmeter. I didn't have the heart to tell him I didn't need a fourth one for each radio+amp+tuner.

In-line wattmeters – the pros:

- They can be fun. The needles swing or the displays flash. Wattmeter/SWR bridges of the crossed-needle type look particularly impressive. It's a hobby. Have one or more if that makes you happy.
- They can be useful in spotting changes. Many of the digital ones provide three or four digits of precision (not accuracy). If the second digit of your SWR is different than it was yesterday, then something might be changing outside. The wattmeter/SWR bridge in your radio can be used the same way, but stand-alone meters are sometimes easier to read.

In-line wattmeters – the cons:

- They cost money
- They take up valuable desk space
- They distract you from what's important, if what's important to you is grinding your way through a DX pileup or a contest.
- Here is the big item: They add loss and reduce station reliability.

Let's do what I suggested at the start of the column and think our way through it piece by piece. An in-line wattmeter adds a jumper cable and one additional male RF connector (net). It also adds the two SO-239s on the wattmeter box and the connections and components inside the box. The extra jumper cable and connectors add some loss, maybe 0.2 dB? That's not a problem on receive until, perhaps, you get to VHF frequencies. When transmitting however, 0.2 dB of loss converts 68 watts of RF into heat if you are running 1500 watts output. No one will notice that when listening to your signal, but that extra jumper cable and those connectors will get warm.

Then there is the use, possibly, of "mystery" connectors (see the February, 2019 column) and worse still the use of right angle adapters at the connections to the wattmeter. I see right angle adapters a lot on the rear of wattmeters. Including right angle adapters, our in-line wattmeter has added a PL-259, two right angle adapters, two SO-239s, a cable, the circuitry inside the wattmeter and the power cable for the wattmeter and, if needed, a power supply (fortunately, most can run off 13.5 VDC "house power"). All this is in exchange for, hopefully, some benefit(s). Only you can do the trade-off for your station.

There *are* stations that are piled high. Rig upon rig, amps, antenna tuners, LCD screens, handhelds in chargers, wattmeters, test equipment, power supplies, etc. If this is your thing – more power to you. I'm all for it. Station building can be a fun part of the hobby. N4GG is designed as a DX and contest station where efficiency and reliability come first. You may have something completely different in mind.

A true story:

I made a trip to HP1XX some years ago to operate in the ARRL CW DX contest. The station had an intermittent connection somewhere in the RF path and I traced that down to the area of an in-line wattmeter. It was following an ACOM 2000A amp which had an accurate wattmeter of its own. The additional wattmeter didn't need to be there. It had right-angle connectors on the back and the one I grabbed was RED HOT. Ouch. The wattmeter and jumper cable were moved to a closet and the right angle adapters were redirected to file 13.

Example 3 - Fused power strips

Figure 1 shows a RIGrunner power strip – which can be public enemy #1 when operating away from home. I'm not picking on RIGrunner – MFJ and many others make the same item. The basic problem of course is what to do after a fuse blows and takes you off the air. Got spares? Every EOC I've been in has these scattered about – and there are usually no spare fuses. EOCs and club stations in particular like to use Anderson Powerpole connectors because

various people and radios are coming and going and it's valuable to standardize. The powerpole's connectors are fine, the fuses are not.



Figure 1 Power Strip

Take a close look at Figure 1. There are three 25 amp branch circuits that will each handle a 100 watt radio drawing around 22 amps when transmitting. The main fuse however is 40 amps. When two rigs are transmitting they present a load of 44 amps peak and will blow the main fuse – shutting *everything* down. The total capacity of the individual fused circuits is 102 amps. The main fuse is 40 amps. Even if we load each branch circuit at half its rating (51 amps total) the main fuse will blow.

Fuses protect the load (equipment, wiring) and the power supply. Modern equipment seldom fails and some examples have built-in circuit breakers or fuses of their own. Nearly all modern power supplies are over-current, over-voltage and short-circuit protected - they don't need a fuse in series with the load. Your station may include a power supply that can handle the load, a power strip that can handle the load, and a fuse that can't. That's okay at home I guess, but away from home what, exactly, are we accomplishing? "I use fuses because, you know, everything should always be fused" is not an answer, it's a slogan.

Another true story:

This occurred while setting up a two transmitter contest station at VP2M. Regretfully, a fused power strip wound up in the mix and was powered up when a wire from it to a piece of gear got plugged in on the gear end. The plug on that end was a 1/8th inch phone plug that for a few milliseconds caused a short as the plug slid into the jack. Presto; blown fuse, off the air! We needlessly "saved" the short circuit protected power supply from a momentary short circuit and went QRT. In this case, the fuse in series with a self-protected power supply served no useful purpose – it just reduced station reliability. We didn't travel all the way to VP2M to test fuses. The work around: all the Anderson PowerPole connectors were cut off and those along with the power strip were set aside. The power supply leads and all the load wires were stripped and twisted together with two large wire nuts. We had a contest to win and no time for niceties.

Redundancy often just adds redundant failure modes.

So – ready to retire parts of your shack? Kick back, grab a cup of Joe and think it through. Maybe even draw a few diagrams for your station technical notebook!

73,

Hal N4GG/4❖

SEDXC Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2020

President Dick Baxter, K5TF called the meeting to order at 7:30pm followed by self-introductions by all in attendance.

Treasurer Jeff Cantor, K1ZN reported that our current funds balance is \$11,732.83.

A request for financial support for the VE8PJ South Orkney Island DXpedition was discussed. This entity is currently No. 16 on the ClubLog DXCC Most Wanted List. A motion was made and passed to contribute \$500.

A request for financial support for the T3ØET Tarawa Atoll (Kiribati) DXpedition planned from March 18 through April 2, 2020 was discussed. Kiribati is ranked No. 72 on the ClubLog DXCC Most Wanted List. A motion was made and passed to decline funding based on the accepted SEDXC long time practice of providing support only for those entities ranked in the top 30 of the Most Wanted List.

Mike Weathers, ND4V is now qualified as a QSL Card Checker for all bands, 10M through 160M, for DXCC or other purposes. Members or others needing QSL card checks can contact Mike at ND4V@arrl.org.

President Baxter has requested that anyone desiring to or willing to serve on a Nominating Committee to nominate officers for the coming year to contact him in person or at K5TF@arrl.org. New officers are to be elected at the June meeting.

We were pleased to have as our guests and speakers David Benoist, AG4ZR from Senoia, GA and Mickey Baker, N4MB from Palm Beach Gardens, FL. David serves as ARRL Georgia Section Manager and Mickey is the ARRL Southeast Division Director, one of fifteen ARRL Directors.

The drawing for the prize of 50% Airfare to attend the Visalia (CA) International DX Convention sponsored by the Southern California DX Club April 24, 25 and 26, 2020 was won by Paul Branson, KA4YZR.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Kelley, W4KLY
SEDXC Secretary

From: [Gene K5GS](#)
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 7:55 AM
To: [Jeff Cantor / K1ZN](#)
Subject: Southeastern DX Club - VP8PJ

Hi Jeff,

I want to thank the Southeastern DX Club for their very generous donation of \$500 to the VP8PJ project, and apologize for this late response.

I returned home from Punta Arenas, Chile last night to a pile of mail, can't sleep so trying to clear the pile of DXpedition and personal business that's been untouched for 5 weeks, including cancelling a number of airplane trips the wife and I had scheduled (and paid thru July) - coronavirus travel restrictions.

When the team returned to Punta Arenas on March 12th we got to see the full extent of the Coronavirus pandemic, some decided to re-book flights and get home sooner than planned. Fortunately, I was able to get flights out on Latam Air and United gave me a 50% on my unused ticket.

Also of concern are the demonstrations going on in Chile since last summer. All of us have been tear gassed at least once, and some several times, with the gas wafting into our hotel. I was able to avoid the water cannons. Our hotel

was at the crossroads of the demonstration routes.

Tremendous civil unrest across the country, with significant vandalism and political slogans spray painted on most buildings. Many major firms sustained damage to their building, windows being replaced by steel plate at banks and mobile phone carriers. Armed guards posted at the door. It's a mess...

However, we never felt threatened by the protesters, but it was time to get out of there. What started (for us) as Friday evening demonstrations turned into afternoon rampages by school kids, teenagers, who were chased by the police vehicles and teargased.

Unfortunately, they're destroying their future and are too stupid to realize they're being used by the outside agitators. This all started when the government increased the subway fares in Santiago, the increase was used as the catalyst to prove income inequality and the wage gap.

We were very happy with the success of the DXpedition, even though it was very cold, we lived / operated in 2 small portable buildings we installed on this windswept island, with high winds, rain, snow and ice most days.

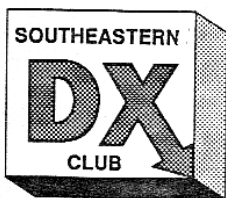
More to come later as we write up the project and get some images on the web.

Thanks again for the donation.

73,
GS K5GS

DXpedition Funding Request

None at this time--Editor



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

March 1995

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

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

VEEP BEEPS

by Dick Bentley, K2UFT, VP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV, President

Greetings DXers! If you missed the February meeting you really missed a good one. We had a report from Kenya, Gordon Bloodworth, 5Z4FH, and another report from Siberia, Pete Rhodes, K4EWG (one of his calls). We also had a short movie showing the efforts of the Frankfurt Radio Club in competition. Maybe we will hear some news about the scores of the 160 meter contest at the meeting.

Plans for Ham Radio '95 and the DXPO are escalating. Jim, W4QO, has a great article in this newsletter. **BUY THOSE TICKETS!** This is a club effort, so we all need to take part. We had a great crowd — almost the room full — at our February meeting, let's fill up both rooms on March 21. Join us for dinner and, yes, another good program! Dick, K2UFT, has the details for you.

CUL, 73 Delaine - KM4FV

160 METER SSB CONTEST

Please help the club out and participate!! Send in those scores!! Send all CQ 160 Meter contest scores to Dave Thompson, K4JRB. The club needs your points!

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.

Congratulations to Kiyoshi, W4JAØBSL who has upgraded to Extra into two sessions over the past month and is anxiously awaiting his US call.

This month's program, as many already know, will be a video of the club station RKØAXX (formerly UZØAXX) presented by Pete, RA9A/K4EWG. Pete is an interesting presenter with his own slant on the old biblical phrase about beating swords into plowshares!

Be sure to join us for dinner at 6:30 PM at Hickory House or the meeting at 7:30 PM upstairs, Days Inn Motel, I-285 and Roswell Road, Sandy Springs. (just inside the perimeter - if the parking lot were any closer to 285, your car would be scrap metal by the end of the meeting!)

See you in the pile ups!

-73 Dick, K2UFT

Proposal to Amend the Constitution of the Southeastern DX Club

Neal Foster, KC4MJ, has made the following proposal to amend the club Constitution. This will be voted on at the March meeting. Prior to the voting, there will be a short time of discussion. We need to limit the discussion time to 10 minutes in order to get all of our program presented.

Motion to be made:

Article II, "Membership in the Club", shall be amended as follows:

D. A radio amateur residing in the greater metropolitan Atlanta area may attend two meetings as a guest and receive two (2) copies of the newsletter free before paying dues. Out of area amateurs will be a guest of the club, but can have full membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

-de John Tramontanis, N4TOL

Balance 2/1/95 (Checkbook)	\$1,983.50
Income	
Hamfest Tickets	35.00
DXPO pins	190.00
Membership	48.00
Raffle & shirts	59.00
Total Income	<u>332.00</u>
Expenses:	
Newsletter (Feb)	100.56
QSL bureau	9.68
Raffle prizes	127.73
Bank Charges	10.33
Total Expenses	<u>248.30</u>
Balance Checking 8/30/94	<u>\$2,067.20</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.

- 73 de N4TOL John

MINUTES SEDXC MEETING 2/21/95

-Buddy Harrell, W4OUN, Sec.

The meeting was called to order by Delaine, KM4FV. There was an introduction of visitors and new members including W4LKO, KE4RZR, KE4TUB, N4WRG, AD4MI, W8FMG, AND KE4TEG.

Jim Stafford, W4QO, reported on HR95 and DXPO. Plans are progressing well. Some of the key features of the upcoming event include the Forum Track, DX Row, hospitality room on Saturday night, and the DX Banquet on Sunday morning.

Ed Sleight, K4SB, provided details on Saturday night's hospitality suite and tickets. Also, a sign-up sheet was passed around for those who can help with the SEDX booth at DXPO.

Sonny indicated that Bob, K4UEE is much appreciative for those who worked him in the contest

and is looking for someone who would be willing to enter his logs into a computer. Contact Sonny or Bob.

Pete Shaw is moving and Nancy, NK4U will be taking over the outgoing QSL service.

Neal Foster, KC4MJ, made a motion concerning membership in the club. Neal's motion is detailed elsewhere in the bulletin but essentially it provides that the Constitution be amended such that a prospective member may attend a limited number of club meetings, then must join and pay dues. The motion was seconded by Dick, K2UFT, but was tabled until the next meeting because of the requirement that a two week notification of all members be provided prior to amending the Constitution. Therefore, this issue will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

Ron, AB4RU, provided an update on the 160M contest and urged everyone to participate in the upcoming SSB portion of the contest.

Dick, K2UFT provided info on the JADX contest including a prize of a free trip to Japan.

The program consisted of three parts:

- 1) A report by Gordon 5Z4FH on Ham Radio activity in Kenya;
- 2) K4EWG, Pete, provided a very informative and interesting talk on what's going on in the former USSR republics; and,
- 3) A Frankfort Radio Club contest tape.

Hope everyone was fired up by the Frankfort tape.

73's and DX, Buddy/W4OUN

CONTEST! JAPAN INTERNATIONAL DX CW "HIGH BANDS"

Date: 2300Z 7 April to 2300Z 9 April

Band: 14, 21 and 28 mhz. only

Entry: Single OP Multi Band, Single OP Single Band, Multi OP, Single, Single Multi QRP (5 W) (QRP stations must identify/QRP) Exchange: JA RST + Prefecture Number (max 50) DX RST + CQ Zone Scoring: 14 & 21, 1 point per QSO, 28, 2 points per QSO, QRP Band points X 2.

Total = QSO points x Number of different prefectures
Dupe Sheets: Required for over 220 QSO on band or over 500 QSO in all.

Plaques: Special plaque to top scorer per category per continent

Reporting: Summary sheet and log (continued p3)

DXPO '95 - A DXtravaganza - April 8-9, 1995 - Be there!

-Jim Stafford, W4QO

DXPO '95 is quickly approaching and you won't want to miss the All Star cast of speakers at our forums for this event. Carrying on the tradition of earlier DXPO events, this year's program features outstanding DXpedition reports, contesting operating techniques, antenna secrets, and the latest in DXCC news. Starting with Bill Wall, AC4UZ, Mr. QUAD antenna followed by our own world traveler - Bob Allphin, K4UEE, with the Baker/Howland Island report. Al Hernandez just returning from VP8SGP at South Georgia Island is next with Tony DePrato, WA4JQS, of Peter I fame right behind. Contest operating with Rick, NQ4I, Neal, AE6E, and Ron, AB4RU, should have you ready for a big trophy in the next event (of course, you will have to beat these guys to get it!) Carl Henson, WB4NH, who's been everywhere will relive those exciting days in Uganda and for those who think helicopters are a way of life on DXpeditions, you'll "see it ain't so Joe" when you hear how Dave Johnson, WA4SSU and Chaz Cone, W4GKF did it in the "good ole days" at Navassa Island. Many other forums will be of interest to DXers at the hamfest which just happens to coincide with DXPO '95! Ham Radio '95, the south's newest and brightest hamfest, will feature all the big three equipment makers and dozens of other exhibitors. Hundreds of flea market tables and thousands of people!

But forums are only one of several exciting components to DXPO. Don't miss the free hospitality room Saturday evening from 8 PM to ?? Door prize tickets are two bucks, so buy several to support the club. This is a time of sharing stories and "Hey, you got questions — we got answers" with most of the vendors also joining us for this experience. Help us get some of our sister clubs to support this event by calling Ed Sleight at 439-0116.

Don't miss the Breakfast Banquet at Shoney's. Tickets will be on sale this month at the club meeting. Six bux (what a bargain!) is all it takes to get all you can eat and DX fun as well. WE are still trying to twist Bill Moore's arm to answer questions on the DXAC/DXCC, so be there. It will begin at 8:30 and end in time to make the first

forum on Sunday morning at the hamfest.

There will be much more with DX ROW — a hospitality affair at the hamfest itself with DXCC card checking and other clubs holding forth. And last but not least, buy your DXPO '95 pin — just \$5 and a way to show your support for this event and the club (great for trading to all those Olympic types for their pins worth \$50, \$100 and even more!) One comment on the cost of this event — if you buy a pin (\$5), two hospitality prize tickets (\$4), a breakfast banquet ticket (\$6), and a hamfest ticket from the club (\$7), you will have spent \$22 for two full days of DX and ham radio fun. Previous DXPO events have cost upwards of \$75, but because we are holding our event concurrent with HamRadio '95, we can benefit greatly and actually make a little profit for the club to use to support DXing. In fact, between now and April 1st, you can have the above package for a total of \$20 — that's right — for the price of a hundred feet of RG-58, you can wear, eat, win, and hamfest to your heart's delight! (Tax, title, air fare, and warranty not included) See the officers or DXPO team for your package deal.

So where else can you get that perfect combination — dogwoods and DX (but no down-pours). Be there, or be square (or is that bi-square?) at DXPO '95!

(continued from p2) on any form, postmarked by May 31, 1995. Include SAE & IRC for results. Address: FIVE-NINE MAGAZINE, Box 59, Kamata, 114 Japan

Kiyoshi, W4/JAØBSL tells us that the grand prize for this one is a trip to Japan to pick up your plaque. Kiyoshi also tells us that the date is incorrect in other publications, so if you can tear yourself away from HamRadio95 and DXPO95 you might pick up a dandy prize!

DX TIDBITS

-Rick, N4XMX

To anyone who has not been on 160 in the last month, you have been missing a lot! I have worked CT and SM and have heard F, HG, and I. This was done with just the big GAP. Image what a beverage would do! Two EWE antennas are going up next! -CU in the pileups...