



# Bulletin



April 2018

## From the Pres

**Mike ND4V**

Please set aside a few hours to operate in the **Georgia QSO Party** on April 14 and 15.

SEDXC is one of the sponsors that began in 1960. Rusty Epps, **W6OAT** is credited with coming up with the idea and rules for the QSO party. He lived in Columbus, GA at the time and was **K4BVD**. He also did the log checking. This, mind you, was while he was still in high school. Rusty is still very active on the air and serves as an advisor to the Northern California DX Foundation. His full biography can be read at <https://www.ncdxf.org/officers/w6oat.html>.

You are very likely to work him during the QSO party. Say "thanks" for coming up with the idea!

Jeff, **KU8E**, has re-designed the QSO party web site [WWW.GEORGIAQSOPARTY.org](http://WWW.GEORGIAQSOPARTY.org) and has an interesting bit of information about the OPS who worked the first party. Check it out and you'll see some familiar call signs there.

**Hamvention** is just around the corner. The May club meeting is May 17. There is generally a light turn out since many folks are in or headed to Xenia. However, in past years those who didn't travel have opted to have the meeting. Unless you hear differently via the reflector or web page, plan of being in the Rich

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Pres/Veep's Report
- 1 Around the Shack
- 2 Treasurer's Journal
- 3 Club Officers
- 6 DXpedition Funding Requests

## Veep's Report

**Dick K5TF**

### This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: **Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>** @ 7:30 PM  
Location: Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital  
Details at [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)

Program Title: **3YØZ – So Near and Yet So Far**  
Speaker: **Bob K4UEE**

They were *this* close. The island lay there in front of them, smiling and beckoning. The skies were clear and the wind was calm. Conditions were ideal for a landing, but it was not to be.

Come and hear the rest of the story from one who was there.

73,

**DICK K5TF** ❖

## Around the Shack

**Hai N4GG/4**

This month I'd like to offer a few notes about state QSO parties. Nearly every state or group of states has one and they are a lot of fun. QSO parties are "parties" not contests for most of the participants. A few stations will be going all-out, but if you dislike contesting this is still an activity for you. Many QSOs in state QSO parties are leisurely – many participants aren't trying to win anything...yet, you may easily win something without trying.

- County Hunting. Looking to fill in some counties or grid squares? Here is your opportunity.

*continued on page 3*

**From the Pres (cont.)**

Auditorium if you are in town.

Also, as in past years, for those who are looking to kick off the Xenia trip, I have reserved the upstairs dining room at the Amber Rose Restaurant. The restaurant gets very favorable reviews on Yelp and their menu is a bit different from the meat and three sides I generally go to. Please join us at 6:30 for drinks and fellowship. Then order your favorite mid-European dish. The sampler plates will satisfy the hungriest among you. The menu is at <http://www.theamberrose.com/dinner-menu/>. The service is always great and separate checks don't give them any problem. If you plan to attend, please add your name to the list on the [SEDXC Dayton Dinner 2018](#) web page.

**HELP WANTED:** SEDXC has openings for 2018-19 Club officers.

- Activities Manager: responsible for any club function outside of the meetings.
- Secretary: keeps us legal. Records the minutes of the meetings.
- Treasurer: records dues receipts, makes deposits to bank, and writes checks. Previous treasurers have used QuickBooks, but it can be done with just the checkbook and a spreadsheet. Requires an ability to communicate with the database dude. Keeps up with the parking stamp!
- Vice President: secures the monthly programs. Runs the meeting if the Pres skips town.

President: Easiest job of all! Write a few words for the newsletter editor and run the meeting. Carries the spare parking stamp!

If you are willing to take the reins for a year or two, I'm certain you'll find it fun. Our club has the cream of the ham community as members, and you'll have plenty of support if you need it.

If you are interested and want to know more, contact the incumbent and have a chat. New officers take office in July.

I'm looking forward to this month's meeting. Bob, K4UEE will be giving us a behind the curtain look at what happened on the 3YØZ DXpedition attempt.

As always I hope to see you at Panera Bread or at the Club meeting.

73 es gud DX,

**Mike ND4V** ❖

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## Treasurer's Journal

**Jeff K1ZN**

Checkbook Balance as of March 31, 2018 = \$7328.03.

Donation received from Charles Johnson K4ZRJ: \$50  
Checks written March:  
-- \$30 GA QSOP Plaque

Your treasurer will be at the DX Convention, Visalia on April 19<sup>th</sup>. It has been an honor to serve as Treasurer for these past four years, but it is time to pass the checkbook on to another. So please, if you are so inclined to serve, let Mike ND4V know of your interest.

73,

**Jeff K1ZN** ❖

## SEDXC OFFICERS

**President:** Mike Weathers, ND4V  
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**Vice President:** Dick Baxter, K5TF  
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**Treasurer:** Jeffrey Cantor, K1ZN  
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**Activities:** Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV  
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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  
[w4gkf@chazcone.com](mailto:w4gkf@chazcone.com)

## Club Communications

**SEDXC Webpage:** [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)

**SEDXC Chat Room:** details on webpage

**SEDXC Reflector:** details on webpage

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- Meeting old friends. I don't enter QSO parties as if they were contests – these are state “parties” after all. There will be a few participants trying to win and state QSO parties are for die-hard contesters as well as casual ops, but many of us just go slow and say hello. I meet old friends in every QSO party I'm in, and it's fun to hear them on year after year and spend a minute catching up.
- Awards! The **best** (and easiest to win) awards are from the state QSO parties. How about this: The California QSO party (CQP) awards a bottle of wine to each of the top 20 scores from outside CA. The New England QSO party (NEQP) flies a lobster dinner for two overnight to the out-of-state winner. Minnesota, Illinois and Georgia have been known to send out edible awards, Minnesota's being wild rice. The station working the most combined counties in the North and South Carolina QSO parties is treated to a Bar-B-Q dinner. The Washington State Salmon Run awards Salmon. Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Tennessee award wood plaques in the shape of their states – they are unique and eye-catching hanging on the shack wall. Hawaii has awarded plaques shaped like a surfboard! Georgia has awarded as many as 41 plaques in all sorts of categories - you can win one of these without much effort. Every state QSO party issues dozens of paper certificates. Last year I won a large, beautiful and unusual plaque from the NEQP and it was totally unexpected. I had put in a few hours— it came as a big surprise.
- Fun and a reason to fire up the rig. Bored with your everyday activities on or off the air? Spend an hour in a state QSO party. If you are a newbie or an old-timer getting rusty, here is a low-key place to sharpen old skills or build new ones. The high-speed all-out guys will invariably slow down for beginning ops, no one should fear jumping in.
- The schedule is up to you. There are state QSO parties many weekends of the year. Times vary – check the rules. Some run for a few hours and some run all day. Some run on Saturday, some on Sunday and some for a few hours on both days.

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## ***Around the Shack (cont.)***

A few additional notes:

- When word got out I was writing about state QSO parties I was encouraged to convince hard-core contesters to participate in larger numbers than they do now. These contests *are* a place to go all-out if you are a seasoned contester. Leisurely and gung-ho participants mix well in state QSO parties.
- When you win a plaque or award in any contest or QSO party – send a thank you note to the contest sponsor (or plaque sponsor if you know who it is). Email is fine these days, but I still mail handwritten thank you notes via the USPS (yes, I'm old school). I've gotten comments back about how appreciated those are. I sponsor plaques from time to time – the thank you notes mean a lot to me.
- Ops new to state QSO parties may not fully understand “directed CQs” so let's spend a moment on that. I'll use the Georgia QSO party (GQP) as an example. When outside GA, a station calls “CQ GA” on CW or “CQ Georgia” on SSB. Stations inside Georgia call “CQ GQP” on CW and “CW GQP or CQ Georgia QSO Party” on SSB. In the GQP I will sometimes call “CQ GQP N4GG/CHER” on CW, indicating I am in Cherokee County for those looking for my county and to further indicate I am, in fact, in Georgia. When I am out of state and the QSO party is in 4-land (example: SC) I usually sign N4GG/GA to help other ops know that while I have a 4-land call sign I'm not in the state they are looking for.
- Nearly every logging program supports the state QSO parties and every US county has a four letter abbreviation. The logging programs have the counties built in. Keep the counties list up on your computer screen or under your elbow as a “cheat-sheet.”

73, and see you in the next QSO party!

Hal N4GG/4❖

## DXpedition Funding Requests

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*None at this time.*