



Bulletin



April 2019

From the Pres



Dick K5TF

As Neil Foster N4FN reported, SEDXC member Bill Ronay KM4LS "from the real Buckhead" is now a Silent Key. Bill was a cancer survivor following diagnosis of and successful treatment for colon cancer in 2015 and again in 2017. A year ago, however, Bill learned of the return of the disease to his lungs and brain, to which he chose palliative care for comfort through treatment of symptoms, and ultimately hospice care. Bill was very active in many areas of this hobby beyond DXing. He was a mentor over the years to many hams, and served extensively in leadership positions within The Southern Section of the Country Cousins Amateur Radio Network. Bill's wife Camille will be in our thoughts and prayers as we celebrate his time with us in SEDXC with an inscribed memorial brick to be placed in the ARRL Diamond Terrace.

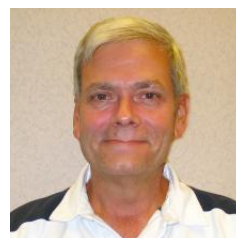
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This Month's Meeting

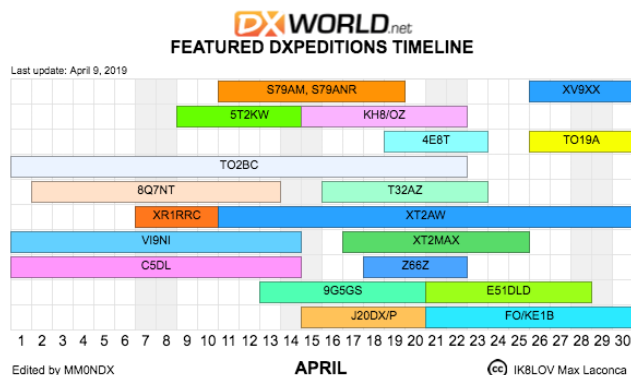
Date/Time: **Thursday April 18th** @ 7:30 PM
Location: Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital
Details at www.sedxc.org



Program Title: **Using QSL Managers**
Speaker: **Tom N4XP**

How's DX

There's lots of DX on this month. You may not need any of these as an ATNO but working them because the call is new is a challenge in current conditions. Info: <https://dx-world.net/>



From the Pres (cont.)

Tom Harrell N4XP will bring our April 18th program. He will draw on his many years serving as a QSL Manager to provide helpful information for using QSL Managers to confirm DX QSO's. Tom tells me that often cards are difficult, if not impossible, to respond to for many reasons, resulting in extra time and expense to resend cards, and delays in getting that "needed one" in the mail. Words of wisdom from Tom on this subject will benefit DXers at our April 18th meeting.

And last, but not least, the election of club officers is just a couple of months away, and I am asking that you give thought to serving on the Nominations Committee. It is crucial that every leadership position be filled for SEDXC to continue to be the premier DX Club that it has been for over 50 years. Please call (404-831-3926) or e-mail (k5tf58@gmail.com) me as soon as possible if you wish to serve the club on this committee.

See you on April 18th in the Piedmont Hospital Cafeteria before the meeting for great food and fellowship.

73 es gud DX,

DICK K5TF❖

Treasurer's Journal

Checkbook Balance as of April 1, 2019: \$11,938

73,

JEFF K1ZN❖

Announcements

The Georgia QSO Party



Dates: April 13, 1800z – 0359z; April 14, 1400z – 2359z

Info: <http://www.georgiasqsoparty.org>



From Editor's Desk

Clark, WU4B

A few members have made great suggestions on making your Bulletin more interesting to all. Hal N4GG is writing *Around the Shack*. This month Paul W4KLY has written *My Story*, and you can expect to see more of these; we all have a fascinating story to tell.

This month we're adding *25 Years Ago in SEDXC* by including a copy of the [Bulletin dated, well, 25 years ago!](#) A copy is appended at the end of the Bulletin, so be sure and read it for a bit of history and nostalgia.

You got ideas? Let's here 'em!

My Story

Paul, W4KLY



My interest in radio began around 1952 in Boy Scouts. My best friend Bill Lile and I built crystal sets using "cat whiskers" and home-made coils using magnet wire salvaged from an old speaker coil wound on toilet paper roll "cores." This led to our building single tube (6SN7) regenerative receivers that was presented in a Popular Electronics article. Soon after this, my dad bought me an "Ocean Hopper" receiver kit ordered from Allied Radio and I could finally receive "short wave" broadcast. One thing continued to lead to another.

In 1952, my hometown, Amory, Mississippi, had a population of just under 5,000. Amory was a "railroad town" founded by what became the Frisco Railroad (now Burlington-Northern) as a major junction located midway between Memphis and Birmingham. Another line ran south from Amory to Pensacola, FL. There was only one Ham Radio operator in the town and became what we would today call our "Elmer." This was Carey Fields, W5QQP who, like many of the men in Amory, including my dad, both grandfathers and one great-grandfather, worked for the railroad. But rather than being an engineer (like my dad and his dad) or a Conductor (like my other grandfather), he was a Telegrapher.

SEDXC OFFICERS

President: Dick Baxter, K5TF
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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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Around the Shack de N4GG/4



QRO Considerations

A lot of us run the legal limit – 1.5 KW. As DXers, contesters or just wanting to work through poor conditions there are situations where “full power” seems like the way to go.

Unfortunately, as we move from a 100 watt or 200 watt transceiver to a full 1.5 KW amp, the “plug and play” approach to station design may no longer suffice. We need to understand a few technical details in order to insure **safe** and **reliable** operating. Notice those two concerns - safety and reliability.

QRO is a topic where a few simple tables (below) and almost no math can tell us all we need to know about the magnitude of what’s entailed. Ohm’s law plus a little understanding of SWR were all I used to create Tables I and II.

At 1,500 watts, voltages and currents are high, and as we move away from 50 ohms (SWR 1:1) the voltages and currents involved move much higher. As we evaluate this let’s assume our antennas present a load that’s purely resistive, which avoids dealing with reactance. Reactance complicates the math and, I think, adds nothing to the conversation.

Table I (p. 4) lists the peak voltage and current on a 50 ohm transmission line as a function of SWR, at 1,500 watts. Fifteen hundred watts delivered into a perfect 50 ohm load (SWR 1:1) is 5.5 amps RMS (7.7 amps peak) and 274 volts RMS (385 volts peak). We are downright shy about sticking our fingers into a 120 volt AC outlet....the voltage at the output connector of our amplifiers and down our coaxial cable transmission lines is much higher than that at QRO power levels – and its not 60 Hz AC either, it’s RF. RF tends to both shock and burn.

Around the Shack (cont.)

Looking at Tables I and II (below), notice that each SWR is listed twice. Due to its definition, SWR is an “absolute value” – it doesn’t have a sign. A 25 ohm load yields a 2:1 SWR but so does a 100 ohm load.

The antennas we use as hams vary from a few ohms (e.g., a short vertical) to thousands of ohms (e.g., an end-fed half-wave) – so Tables I and II cover a wide range of SWR. We can use high SWR antennas because antenna tuners (and baluns) can transform high SWR back to 1:1 at the transmitter and many of us use them to do that. In those cases, the voltage and current at the transmitter and input to the antenna tuner are per the first row in Table I – 7.7 amps peak, 385 volts peak, SWR 1:1. But the voltage and current at the output of the antenna tuner and on the transmission line are dictated by the antenna’s characteristics and that could be any row in the table.

Table I is for a “50 ohm system,” – it’s the table to use for a 50 ohm coax transmission line. Table II is for a “450 ohm system,” – it’s the table to use for open wire line, ladder line or “window line” transmission lines.

So let’s take a hard look at the tables and see the implications for safety and reliability. *Safety first* as the ARRL Handbook says. Looking at Table I, even at an SWR of 1:1 the peak RF voltage is sufficient to cause very nasty burns and injury. For a high SWR off-resonance antenna example look at the 10:1 SWR row. 1,200 volts might occur anywhere from the output of an antenna tuner up to the antenna terminals. I just wrote “up to the antenna terminals” but sometimes the antenna terminals are at the ground. Ground mounted verticals will have nearly 400 volts at the base when the SWR is 1:1 and can have 1,200 volts (or more) at the base when off resonance. That’s enough voltage to electrocute animals and to start fires! Is part of your off-center fed dipole or ground-fed vertical touching dry leaves? At 1,500 watts you have a recipe for disaster.

QRO power antenna tuners need a few words at this point, as these have safety and reliability issues to consider. There have been many, many QRO antenna tuner models for sale over the years – of many types and descriptions. In addition to SO-239s for their output connections, many also include a single unprotected terminal at the rear for tuning a single wire antenna and others have two terminals at the rear for feeding balanced lines. In some tuners, these terminals are “hot” even when the tuner is being used “coax in – coax out.” The voltage on these terminals can be higher than those in Tables I and II – depending on the circuitry within the tuner. Objects and YOU need to stay clear of these terminals. On the subject of reliability, QRO antenna tuners are notorious for burning up. Again, Tables I and II tell the story. The components in a QRO tuner must handle as much as 20 amps and thousands of volts, over a very wide frequency range. The components in the box are always heavy duty, expensive, and not always up to the task. I encourage everyone interested in QRO tuners to read the February, 2003 QST article “QST Reviews High Power Antenna Tuners,” available in the QST archives. That article convinced me to use Ten Tec 238B (or C) antenna tuners – a decision I have never regretted.

Assessing station reliability at QRO power requires examining every element from the amplifier to the antenna, and the number of possible items is nearly endless. Here are a few common ones:

- RG-8X is rated at 1,000W max (at 10 MHz) and 2,500 volts maximum. By spec, it is not suitable for QRO. I have used it occasionally at 1.5 KW and have never had a failure, but it does get warm and I can’t recommend it. RG-214’s maximum ratings are 3,700 watts and 7,000 volts (peak). RG-214 and most 3/8 inch and larger coax meet our needs.
- How about antenna switches and baluns? Many are rated at 1.5KW or “full legal power” but their ratings seldom mention SWR. They will hold up to the conditions of Table I, Row 1 (SWR 1:1), but what about 5:1 SWR – which is a realistic case if we have an antenna tuner in line at the shack end?
- Another common item is “lightning arresters.” We don’t want a “lightning arrester” to trigger when transmitting QRO power into a 2:1 SWR and that’s about 550 volts. The “lightning arrester” commonly sold to hams as a commercial-quality device, rated for 1.5 KW, does not mention SWR on the data sheet! “Lightning arresters” are a good subject for a future column but notice I always refer to them in quotes.
- Antenna parts also belong on this non-exhaustive list. Whether your antennas are bought-off-the-shelf or DIY, there will be insulators, wire, and sometimes; traps, phasing harnesses, top/bottom/both stack switches, matching components and coupling or decoupling sleeves. Are all the components rated to handle the voltage and current shown in Tables I and II? How about when it’s raining?

**Table I – Peak Transmission Line Voltage and Current vs. SWR
1500 Watts, 50 Ohm System**

SWR	Antenna Resistance	Voltage Peak (Volts)	Current Peak (Amps)
1:1	50 ohms	385	7.7
2:1	25 ohms	273	10.9
2:1	100 ohms	546	5.5
3:1	16.6 ohms	223	13.4
3:1	150 ohms	670	4.5
5:1	10 ohms	173	17.3
5:1	250 ohms	864	3.5
10:1	5 ohms	122	24.4
10:1	500 ohms	1,220	2.4

**Table II – Peak Transmission Line Voltage and Current vs. SWR
1500 Watts, 450 Ohm System**

SWR	Antenna Resistance	Voltage Peak (Volts)	Current Peak (Amps)
1:1	450 ohms	1,160	2.6
2:1	225 ohms	820	3.6
2:1	900 ohms	1,640	1.8
3:1	150 ohms	670	4.5
3:1	1,350 ohms	2,006	1.5
5:1	90 ohms	518	5.8
5:1	2,250 ohms	2,590	1.2
10:1	45 ohms	366	8.1
10:1	4,500 ohms	3,665	0.8

Let's bring this month's column to a close by looking at a frequently suggested "all-band" antenna - a 100 foot doublet center-fed with 450 ohm balanced line. Table III lists the highest voltage and current seen on the transmission line, by band. Note, the location of current maximum and voltage maximum can be anywhere: from the antenna tuner output, to somewhere along the transmission line, to the antenna terminals. Where the highest values occur depends on the frequency of operation and the length of the transmission line. Also, current and voltage peaks will occur at multiple locations for transmission lines longer than ½ wavelength. On 160 meters, the maximum values are 11 KV and 28 amps! This antenna is not practical for use on 160 meters at QRO power. On 80 through 10 meters the currents and voltages are still high, but quality ladder line can handle the values listed. The issue then becomes the antenna tuner, matching network(s), switches, etc. that may not be up to the task.

**Table III – Peak Transmission Line Voltage and Current by Band
 100 ft center-fed doublet, 50 feet high
 450 ohm feedline, 200 feet long
 1,500 Watts**

Freq MHz	Peak Voltage (Volts)	Peak Current (Amps)
1.8	11,150	28.5
3.6	5,230	13.0
7.1	2,660	6.6
10.1	3,840	9.4
14.1	2,390	5.9
18.1	2,760	6.8
21.1	3,030	7.5
24.9	1,850	4.5
28.5	2,640	6.5

I look forward to hearing your BIG SIGNAL on our next QSO – but please don't burn anything up, especially yourself!

73,

Hal N4GG/4❖

My Story (cont.)

I'll always remember seeing Mr. Field's shack for the first time. Dials, knobs and meters . . . and super organized. His receiver was a BC-348Q and his main transmitters were 80M and 40M "Command Sets" sitting side by side on top of the power supply he had built to power them. Over the next weeks Bill and I probably pestered him a lot being there for code practice and listening to W1AW code practice sessions on his receiver, but he never complained. There was also a tall relay rack in the shack filled with homebrew and converted surplus equipment, but no microphone or modulator to be found. Mr. Fields operated CW only. There was a W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate for 35 WPM hanging on the wall. I don't know what his code proficiency was with "Continental" Morse that was used on the railroad, but definitely much faster.

With Mr. Fields helping us, by mid-1953, Bill and I had learned Morse and were proficient at 5 WPM. Our nearest FCC exam locations were Memphis and Birmingham, and FCC regulations at that time required that we go to one of them to take our Novice exam. Our first opportunity to take the Novice exam was in Memphis in October. Bill and I got permission from our high school principal to be excused for the day for our trip to Memphis. We boarded the train to Memphis around 4:30am on a cold morning and arrived there around 7:00am. We walked to the main Post Office building where the exams were given, but it didn't open until 8:00am. Waiting for the doors to open Bill and I froze our butts off waiting on a park bench next to the statue of W. C. Handy ("Father of the Blues") on the bluff above the Mississippi River across the street from the Post Office.

Finally the Post Office doors opened. In addition to us there were a couple other kids there for the Novice exam. The exams were given in the large open basement of the building. The walls, floors, columns and ceiling were all concrete. The 5 WPM code test was given to all of us at the same time. Headphones were not provided and the speaker volume was turned up very loud. The code character sounds were bouncing off all the concrete surfaces. It was like being in the middle of an echo chamber. Fortunately, both Bill and I passed the code test, and after that we passed the written test as well. It seemed to take forever, but finally in mid-December, 1953, Bill and I received our new calls from the FCC in the mail. I was assigned WN5CLS and Bill was WN5CLU.

Mr. Fields showed found plans for a transmitter that we could build in the November QST. The transmitter in the article written by Lew McCoy, W1ICP was titled "Novice 80- and 40-Meter One-Tube Rig using a 6AG7." Bill and I got busy finding parts. The power transformer, 5Y3 rectifier, and variable capacitors for the pi-network were all salvaged from old broadcast radios. We had to order a 1" diameter B&W inductor, the Shurite meter and RF chokes that we needed, but most everything else came from Mr. Fields' junk box. We ordered the parts from Burstein-Applebee in Kansas City, MO including J-38 keys that cost around \$1.50 at that time. BA must have acquired thousands of the 3735 KC crystals (kHz didn't come until later) that they sold for 50 cents. Almost every Novice had one of these. With some technical support from Mr. Fields we got both of the 6AG7 transmitters working. On a good day, they might load up to seven watts input. Our first contacts were with Mr. Fields and each other.

Just as we were finishing up the transmitters, my dad bought a used Hallicrafter S-40B and gave it to me. Bill already had a National NC-125. From a cold start it took the S-40B about two hours to settle down and stop drifting, so I left it on most of the time. My rig was in my bedroom, and through the night there was a interesting light pattern "splattered around" on the bedroom walls and ceiling shining through the ventilation ports from the dial lights and tubes inside the receiver case.

I was anxious to increase my transmitter power and was wanting to order a HeathKit AT-1 capable of running 35 Watts. The cost of the kit was \$30 or \$35. Eldico advertised their TR-75TV kit for \$60 and it would run 75 Watts using a 6AG7 oscillator and 1625 amplifier. I didn't have the money to buy the kit, but I was earning \$5.00 every Saturday delivering groceries, so I went to our bank and meet with Mr. Borland, the bank President, to see if I could make a loan. I'm certain that Mr. Borland was alerted to my visit, and he asked me a lot of questions and seemed very impressed by my interest in radio. I got a loan for \$50 and, with money that I already had, I ordered the Eldico kit. The loan was repaid in four months. The bank earned something between \$1.00 and \$2.00.

Within a few months both Bill and I passed the General exam and dropped the "N" from our calls. HeathKit came out with the VF-1 VFO for around \$30 and I ordered one of these right away. Having the VFO following months of crystal control was like being released from prison. A HeathKit Q-Multiplier for my S-40B came next, and this was a great improvement for the receiver. The "city" lot that our home was on didn't allow much room for an antenna, but I was able to put up a 40 meter dipole about 30 ft. high supported by a magnolia tree on one end and a pecan tree on the other. With this antenna I was able to make a lot of 40M stateside contacts and DX usually in the middle of the night on a few occasions. My greatest DX achievement was VK.

One time I received a nasty letter from the FCC asking about my transmissions that had been received at Chicago Midway Airport on some frequency outside the Amateur bands. Scared the crap out of me! I had no idea of what I had done to cause this, but apparently they were satisfied with my written reply.

During our senior year in high school, Bill and I built more powerful transmitters using 6AG7 oscillators, 2E26 buffer/drivers and an 813 final amplifier. Bill's rig used a single 813 but I went bigger using a pair. My transmitter stood about 30" high consisting of three units designed around standard 19" rack dimensions. The bottom unit was the power supply with a pair of 866A mercury vapor rectifiers, oil filled capacitors, etc., the middle unit was the oscillator/buffer and the top unit the final amplifier. The biggest problem was neutralizing the amplifier, but I finally got it working without electrocuting myself.

After HS graduation, both Bill and I entered engineering school at Mississippi State University. Bill's father had died several years earlier and his mom had limited income, so he was highly motivated to get through college quickly. He went to school straight through with no summer breaks and got his BSEE degree in three years. I, on the other hand, crammed my four years of engineering school into five. The highlight of my college career was flunking out. High school was easy, but I wasn't really prepared to succeed in college and lacked the maturity dedication to do what I needed to do. To avoid being drafted, I joined the National Guard and was on a Greyhound bus to Ft. Jackson, SC three weeks after the end of the spring semester. Six months later just before Christmas I was released from active duty. I was back in school in January with a changed attitude and a lot of determination. I received my BS Engineering degree in July 1961 and went to work two weeks later in training as a Fire Protection Engineer. Two months later I bought something that I had dreamed of having ever since I got my license . . . a Johnson Viking II.

During my final semester in college I started building an HBR-16. This was a 16 tube dual conversion superhet receiver design by Ted Crosby, W6TC, that was published in QST. However, a lot of time passed and a lot of things happened in my life from the time that I started the project until it was completed: I graduated from college, moved to Jackson, MS, attended school for six weeks in Hartford, CT where I met Eileen, moved to Atlanta, married Eileen, we

relocated to Albany, GA, moved back to Jackson where son was Scott born in 1963 and son Rob was born in 1965. The receiver was finally finished in early 1966 a few months after Rob was born.

I remained fairly active in ham radio from 1961 until around 1973. In 1966 I changed employers and we moved to Charlotte, NC. My assigned call there was WA4KXU. Two years later we relocated to Summit, NJ where I was WB2GOH. In 1973 we moved back to Georgia and have been in the Stone Mountain area since then. My call following this move was WB4DCZ. None of the calls other than my original call ever felt right until I got W4KLY. For me, and I hope for others, the "KLY" in the call (for "Kelley") has good rhythm on CW, and "Kilo-Lima-Yankee" is easy to say and recognize on SSB.

In 1974 life, family and job got in the way of Ham Radio. I maintained my license and kept the WB4DCZ call but was never on the air again until late 2005. That year Dozier, WA4DEO, who I knew only by name at that time, hooked up with me and another person on a trip to the Mississippi coast volunteering for Katrina relief work. On the drive there, and well before we reached Alabama border, Dozier said something about Ham Radio that let me know that he was a Ham. I always expected to get back into Ham Radio at some time, but that week with Dozier lit my fire again. I still had the equipment that I had acquired over the years and was inspired to get back on the air. But the equipment that had been sitting idle for over 30 years didn't want to cooperate. The HBR-16 would not work, the old HQ-170 receiver did . . . but not very well, and the Viking Ranger that replaced the Viking II years earlier was also dead.

"Hello HRO! My name is Paul, and I'm a Ham!"

On my first trip to HRO I came home with a Kenwood TS-570 and a G5RV antenna. I later upgrading to an Icom 756 Pro III because it was far superior than the TS-570 on CW. A few years later playing with Dozier's Elecraft K-1 introduced me to Elecraft, and that led me to drinking the Elecraft "Koolade". My current (and I expect my final full station) consists of a K3, P3, KPA500 and KAT500, and a KX3 for QRP. I traded in the 756ProIII at HRO for an almost even swap for an Icom 7300 (S# 6146) that, in my opinion, is the "biggest bang for the buck" in Ham Radio transceivers. Antennas are a 3 element SteppIR with the 40-30 element, 80M dipole and 160M Inverted "L" with three above ground tuned radials. I was saving up to buy an Alpha, but instead decided on the Elecraft KPA-500 and SteppIR instead and had money left over. I am firm believer that antenna gain is a better investment than watt gain. I've qualified for DXCC on 80 through 10, but just over half way there on 160. I don't have the time or patience for 6. I have 288 countries in the log with 284 confirmed. My goal is to live long enough to get these numbers to 300. Neither my age or the solar cycle is helping here, but I'm still trying.

Ham Radio has played a major part in my life, but never more than at this time and at my age. I have more friends that I can count and almost all of them are a result of this fantastic hobby. Several of these people I consider to be close friends. Since retirement I have had the opportunity and pleasure to accompany friends multiple times to Hamfests in Dayton, Orlando, Huntsville and other locations, and throughout the year participate with fellow members of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, Southeastern DX Club and North Georgia QRP Club. I feel sorry for retirees who often seem to have nothing to do . . . mentally or physically. I'm fortunate to have more to do that I possibly can thanks in part to Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, and most of all to this hobby and to all my fellow Ham Radio operators.

73,

Paul W4KLY❖



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

THE SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB

April 1994

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday Apr. 19th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

FROM THE VP

-Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV, VP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-John Smith, KI4XO, President

Well, the T33 came and went, but we got 'em! Hope that everyone else who needed the island was able to work the team for a new country. The bands have been hopping fairly well. We heard a lot of activity in the WPX contest. Many different and new prefixes. Some outstanding scores were obtained by several club members. Come to the next meeting and share your results with us.

Several items are happening on the home front with in town visitors. John, ON4UN will be here on May 2, 1994 to speak on the low bands. His new book will be out for low band DX. The event is being coordinated by Dick Bentley, K2UFT and Vern Fowler, W8BLA. Please contact either gentleman for reservations for this event. The event will be held near the Perimeter Mall with a talk in on 146.82 and 147.195. (Directions on page 2 -ed) Donations of \$1.00 are requested. Romeo and Vern had a twisted pair QSO just recently and he plans to be in town during April 12-13. He has appointment with the ARRL to deliver the P5 and 5A data for confirmation of these operations from those countries. Possible dinner plans during that time will be announced via packet and two meters. Please call Vern or myself if you are interested in a dinner activity.

We have several surprises at the next club meeting for the members. So stay tuned and cu at the next meeting.

73 and good DX

John, KI4XO

Welcome to Spring! Isn't it wonderful to have warm weather? It seems like it has been cold forever. Neal, KC4MJ, gave us a great presentation last month on his Geneva trip when he visited Fritz and operated from 4U1ITU. What a beautiful place it was with the Swiss Alps, and what a nice place to operate Amateur Radio. Thanks, Neil, we all want to go next time.

On April 19, Bill Barr, N4NX will show us a film on a DXpedition to PJ land and may have a surprise or two for us. Be sure that you don't miss this. It could be a rare treat. Well, the 160 Meter World Champion cups are really here! We will have them at the April meeting. Please pick yours up and pay the amazingly low price of only \$3.00. We will have a list of all the participants of the contest. There is a possibility that we will also have 3 or 4 choices of new T-Shirts for you to buy and have to wear to Dayton. You are going to Dayton, aren't you?

This will be my first time to experience a Dayton Ham Fest. I'm sure I am in for a treat, I hope I don't get lost amongst the acres of "valuables".

Bring a friend and join us for dinner and another good program.

By the way, only 111 days from today until the 1994 Southeastern Amateur Radio Convention. Start saving your money!

73, Delaine, KM4FV

SPECIAL NOTE! Rick, 7P8EB, will also be at the April meeting according to Larry, N4TMW. Come and hear all about Lesotho.

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.

SEDXC MEETING HELD 10/18/93

-Buddy Harrell, W4OUN, Sec.

MINUTES OF SEDXC MEETING HELD 03/15/94

The meeting was called to order by President John Smith at approximately 7:30 PM. There were intros by all including several visitors.

Everyone was reminded to send in their 160 Meter Contest scores if they have not already done so. It is anticipated that competition is going to be very strong this year.

After a discussion by the club membership, a motion was passed that the club contribute funds to the Carl and Martha Henson Eritrean DXpedition. The Club will provide matching funds up to \$500. Everyone was urged to contribute to this very worthwhile cause. Carl and Martha have provided all of us rare DX over the years. Contact John, N4TOL, if you wish to contribute.

It was announced that John, ON4UN of low-band DX fame will be here in Atlanta on May 2 following Dayton. He will make a presentation at a facility in Perimeter Office Park. Contact Verne Fowler, W8BLA if you are interested in attending.

Delaine, KM4FV reminded everyone that the old 610's are no longer valid. Also, cups for last years 160M contest should be in by the next meeting. Neal, KC4MJ indicated that volunteers are still needed for Scitrek operators. Give him a call at home.

Pete, K4LDR collected cards for the QSL bureau. Cards for 3Y0PI group handling must be in at the April meeting. Remember, all SSB contacts on one card, CW on another.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Neal, KC4MJ presented a very entertaining and informative program on his trip to Switzerland and operation at 4U1TU.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 PM.

73's and DX, Buddy/W4OUN

ON4UN in ATLANTA!!

John Devoldere, ON4UN, will be in Atlanta May 2nd. John is best known for his accomplishments and books on low band DX'ing. He will be signing a new book and giving a talk at the location given below. This is a joint venture of SEDXC and the Atlanta Radio

Club. There will be a \$1 donation asked to help defray some of John's expenses. There is only room for 130 people so please make your reservations with either Verne, W8BLA at 993-2909 or Dick, K2UFT 393-2848..

When: Monday, May 2, 1994 7 PM

Where: Perimeter Center Office Park Theater

400 Perimeter Center Terrace

Lobby Floor

Directions: I-285 Exit 21 Ashford - Dunwoody Road North on Ashford Dunwoody Road approximately 3/4 mile. Left on Perimeter Center East (just past movies which are on your left.) Turn right at second entry way (just past entry for The Marque hotel. Take an immediate left up a slight incline for visitors parking deck. Follow visitor parking signs inside the deck and park near the Atrium entrance to building. Enter building through the Atrium entrance and sign-in with the guard. Theater is located at the North end of the lobby, left hand side. No one will be admitted unless your name appears on the sign-in list. Deadline for signup is Thursday, April 28.

TREASURER'S REPORT

-de John Tramontanis, N4TOL

Balance 3/31/94 (Checkbook)	\$3,146.33
Deposits:	
Raffle & Pins	92.00
Plaques 160	80.00
Peter I	85.00
Memberships	66.00
Carl Henson	150.00
Subtotal	<u>3,619.33</u>
Expenses:	
Newsletter (March)	90.30
Bank Charges (March)	10.00
Dayton (Rms & Hosp.)	500.00
Raffle Prizes	85.31
Total Expenses	<u>708.31</u>
Balance Checking 1/31/94	<u>\$2,911.02</u>

A reminder that \$1,550 of this balance is earmarked specifically for 160 meter award plaques which the club is administrating the receipt and flow of funds. Also, another \$470 is earmarked to support DXpeditions (\$235 donated matches \$235 donated by club members). This leaves \$891.02 in the club general fund.

-73 de N4TOL, John

THE FIRST FOUR YEARS

-Rick, N4XMX, editor

It has taken four years for me to work and confirm 300 DXCC countries. There has been a lot of excitement, thrills and anxiety along the way! The trip has been worth the effort and I recommend it to anyone starting out in Amateur Radio. I'll describe some of my thoughts as I climbed up the country list.

I was originally licensed as KC4MWA. This call was only used a few times on the 146.82 repeater. I knew I wanted an Advanced Class ticket before I ever got on HF. As with quite a few beginning hams, I passed all the written tests through Advanced within a few weeks. The 13 wpm CW took me about two months and three tries before passing at the Church of the Atonement. Neil Foster, KC4MJ, looked at my copy, looked at me and shook his head. I had copied one part real well (65 chars in a row) and blew the rest. That was enough though!

I bought a Kenwood TS-440 from Jim, N4UCK, which I still use and put up a 10 meter dipole about 15 feet off the ground. I was on the air! Of course, having a radio means you need the nerve to actually use it. After two QSO's with US stations, the radio had to wait until the next weekend. Early next Saturday morning, I hear a German station on 10 meters telling a US station that he is running 100 watts. Well, I have a 100 watts and I can hear him so the antenna can't be too bad I thought. After their QSO was finished, I timidly gave my call once. To my amazement, he can back to me. Now what do I do? Well, like so many QSO's since, the usual long version (name, QTH, and rig info) is a safe bet. But, I was hooked!

As time went by, I was looking for another antenna to cover a few more bands. Verne, W8BLA lent me a Cushcraft AV-3 vertical, good for 10, 15, and 20m. With this antenna and my TS-440, I worked over 130 countries, all on phone, in the period of a year. These included most of the Caribbean, South America, and some of Europe. For beginners, these countries are easy to work, especially during contests and QSL well.

After a little over a year, I then bought a Cushcraft A-3 and a rotor, both from Verne. Not having a tower, I obtained 30 feet of some 2" steel pipe and bolted it to the house. This arrangement,

while far from perfect, has functioned very well and is still my primary antenna. A GAP DX-VI vertical was added to cover the low bands. For 160 m, I strung 100' of wire up a tree and feed it with a MFJ random wire tuner. I added a Heath SB-200 in order to work Romeo in Burma, pushing the power up to maybe 600 watts. So much for a "BIG GUN" station! This setup got me over 260 countries total, again all phone, during the second year and a half.

The third year was spent tracking down elusive but active stations. Some of these include ST0, XW, J5, and some of the rarer Pacific islands. Also, DXpeditions like VP8SSI, VK9WW and 5X5WR were not to be missed! A DX'er pays more attention to the bulletins at this point too. Some of the DXpeditions have been to places where activity is rare and you have to work them while they are there. Many places take YEARS before anyone goes back. I started one month after Bouvet, who knows when that will be on again? Equipment changes during the third year, an Alpha 76 replaced the SB-200 and a Cushcraft A-3WS mounted on a 20' pushup pole for the WARC bands. Don't overlook WARC bands, a lot less crowded! I also started using CW after I saw a few CW spots for countries I needed that never showed up on phone. 9MØS, 9V and 5R I have only on CW. Well worth the effort. A memory keyer helps from sending your call wrong! Total after this period was 290 countries.

I have just sent in my next 11 cards after receiving the VK9MM cards. These are E3, KH5, KH5K, KH1, SU, VK9M, 1S, 3C, 5R, 5T, and 9G. This has finally gotten me up to 300! The remaining countries will get only more obscure and the wait between countries even longer. I can understand why John, KI4XO, said it has taken him 20 years to hit the honor roll. I have left a few Africans, VU7's, and a bunch of VK 9's and 0's. I can't wait until the sun-spots pick up!

CU in the pileups...

-Rick

REMINDER: 3YØPI QSL CARDS

All members who worked the 3YØPI can bring your cards to the next meeting to be sent off as a group from the SEDXC. Please put all SSB contacts on one card and CW on another. This should help get our cards in a reasonable time.

BILL
 BARR
 355 WESTERHALL COURT
 ATLANTA
 GA 30328
 N4XX 6/30/94

Atlanta, GA, 30325
 PO Box 19871
 SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB



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DX PACKET FREQ. (2400 baud)

W8ZF 145.63
 K4KG 144.91
 N4UCK 145.65, 144.97
 (ARCDX)
 KK4JF 145.71 (also 1200)

DX COMMUNICATION FREQ.

Simplex 147.54
 Melvin 147.51
 K4JPD Repeater (tone 7)
 147.795/T-195/R
 W8BLA/R 442.075+

NEXT MEETING

Apr 19th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House, Days Inn on Roswell Rd., just inside I-285