



# Bulletin



April 2021

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## This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Telemeeting

Info: [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)

Topic: INDEXA—The Organization and  
Sponsored DXpeditions

Speaker: Lou Dietrich, N2TU

## From the Prez



Dick K5TF

Hi Fellow SEDXC DXers, I hope you all are safe and well. The Georgia QSO party is coming up soon. I hope to work my last seven GA counties this time around. On the DX front I worked one A2 band fill - still needing 160M. There are a few new IOTAs coming up next month (April).

This month's SEDXC meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> will feature an old SEDXC friend, Lou Dietrich, N2TU who will speak on behalf of The International DX Association (INDEXA). He will discuss INDEXA and some of the supported & sponsored DXpeditions it has helped. I have been a life member of INDEXA for several decades now. Check out its web site before the meeting; INDEXA.org.

Dick K5TF ♦

May's meeting will feature our own Greg, W6IZT with Hal, W8HC. At the March 2021 SEDXC ZOOM meeting, Ned, AA7A and Kevin, K6TD spoke about the "Rig in a Box" project and concept for remote DXpedition operations. The May 20, 2021 meeting that will follow-up on this project with SEDXC member Greg, W6IZT & Hal, W8HC presenting what they have been involved with to advance this concept.

Keep safe & happy! CU then.  
73, Jeff / K1ZN  
for our Prez, Dick, K5TF

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## Treasurer's Journal

Jeff K1ZN



Checkbook Balance: \$15,254.38  
March Expenses disbursed:  
\$113.50 for Zoom Fees  
\$75. For K4SSU YL/Family Testimonial Plaque

Jeff K1ZN ❖

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## Around the Shack

de N4GG/4



### DX is for the Deserving

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD (SK) published the West Coast DX Bulletin (WCDXB) from 1968 to 1979.

Cass was quite a guy and if you were not around in the 60s and 70s I hope you have discovered the WCDXB more recently. All the issues are available on the web. This was pre-email. The WCDXB was mailed to your house. Imagine that! Bernie, W3UR, now publishes The Daily DX that covers the same DX info, DXpedition rumors and related matters such as what's up at the FCC. The Daily DX arrives by email. I remember hovering around my mail box in the 70s waiting for my weekly copy of the WCDXB via snail mail.

If you were a serious DXer you subscribed or read your friend's copy when he was through with it. Beyond the standard fare was Cass' humorous storytelling. Subscription to the WCDXB grew so large that Cass finally quit. It was a one-man operation and cranking out a thousand copies on a mimeograph machine, addressing them and mailing them was hard work.

As the WCDXB grew Cass' cast of characters evolved. I still laugh when reading the WCDXB and I have read the entire collection at least twice. I've also written in Cass' style at times, as have several others. Characters included the Old Timer, The QRPer, Red Eyed Louie and his cousin Sun Spot Louie and the Palos Verde Sun Dancers. The stories usually began with The QRPer being perplexed about something DX related (often why he couldn't work anything) and climbing the hill to seek the wisdom of The Old Timer. The Old Timer would answer the QRPer's question in a round-about way, in the form of a parable. Hugh was clever and an excellent writer.

The story was always at the back of the bulletin and subscribers invariably went straight to the back and read that first. The last words were always "DX IS." The WCDXB is where that started. The saying DX IS is still used by old time DXers. Another saying was "DX is for the deserving." The QRPer was admonished to drop bad habits and do the right thing. If he did, he would be deserving of rare DX.

That brings me to one of my favorite QSOs. If you have been on the air for very long you probably have one or two of your own.

I've chased DX for a long time. An Honor Roll plaque went on my wall around 1975 there is very little I need in the way of new DX. I did need Desecheo Island on 160 meters however when a DXpedition led by K4UEE and WØGJ went there in February, 2009. At the time I was wintering in my tiny deed-restricted two-story townhouse in Florida. I had an FT-857 and a power supply on-site and that was it. There were no antennas and little hope of putting any up. Getting on 160 from there wasn't even a fever dream.

But, Cass was right. DX is for the deserving. So I decided to try. Desecheo Island is 1,100 miles from Vero Beach, FL and the pileups were going to be ferocious, but what the heck.

First up was the antenna problem. The only option I could see was a rain gutter than ran along the building about 12 feet off the ground. That would have to do. I threw a piece of speaker wire from my second floor balcony to the gutter and jammed the shack end into the output SO-239 on the FT-857. A PL-259 was superfluous. The 857 doesn't have a built-in antenna tuner and I didn't have an outboard one, but I'm not sure it mattered. The SWR was probably 100:1 and beyond the range of any sane tuner anyway.

There was no counterpoise. Radials are key to good performance on 160 and I had none. The rig itself and the power supply leads and the shield of the coax would have to do. This was looking grim.

I checked the antenna. As expected the rig folded back to protect itself. The output bar graph wasn't indicating any power going out. I might have been putting 1 watt into the rain gutter or maybe 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a watt. There was no way to tell. Despite having no ground for the antenna, the chassis didn't seem hot. When you are running one watt nothing seems hot. Cass' QRPer would have thrown in the towel at this point, but I'm the Old Timer up on the hill and I wasn't going to admonish myself for being completely unprepared. Desecheo at this point was the number six most wanted DXCC country in the world.

Next came noodling out how to actually get the contact. This is where experience came in handy. I was NOT going to break any pileups. I would be lucky to be heard at all. 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a watt on 160? 1,100 miles? No radials? A QSO was unlikely. I figured the last night of operation was going to be my best chance, around 3 AM, after the sun had risen in Europe and the big guns (and the little pistols) had all gotten their QSOs and were in bed. All the TV sets would be off in the building too. 3AM was just before sunrise at Desecheo. Competition was going to be as good as it would get on the last night, although I expected there would still be a lot of callers.

Fortunately, the DXpedition was reporting their status via the web, so figuring out when the last night was easy. I set the alarm for 2:45 AM, got up, made coffee and fired up my wonder-station. The usual middle-of-the-night 160 sizzle was there: S6. Nuts. My signal wasn't going to be S6 one mile away. But DX is for the deserving so I plowed (crawled was more like it) ahead.

Whoo-hoo! There was K5D on CW about one S unit above my noise level. At least I could hear them. They were actually arm chair copy. They announced they were working split and I went looking for the pileup. I couldn't find it.

Was I the only caller? It seemed impossible. I wasn't hearing well so I figured I just couldn't hear the other callers. That's not good. Timing the pileup is a necessity in this situation and I couldn't hear it.

Okay, okay, just call. As I once told a famous contester who was sitting doing email at PJ2T while waiting for 15 to open, "They won't hear you if you don't transmit." That's become an inside joke.

So I called. N4GG. Nothing. N4GG. Nothing. N4GG. Nothing. I did start to notice K5D wasn't working anyone, so he either had a high noise floor (bad!) or there were no callers (good!). N4GG. Nothing.

N4GG. Nothing. This went on for 15 minutes. The 857 was happily folded all the way back to under 1 watt. The rain gutter was now wet with dew – typical of FL in the middle of the night. I was operating in the bedroom and the bed looked inviting. What was I doing up at 3 in the morning?

I implored the Palos Verde Sun Dancers to help me out. N4GG. Nothing. N4GG, K5D: N? Wow! The grey line was sweeping over Desecheo. I have great admiration for whoever was operating 160 at K5D that morning. He stuck with it for an hour or more not making any QSOs. Well, except for one.

N4GG. Nothing. N4GG, N4GG, N4GG. K5D: N? N4GG 4 times. K5D: N4? N4GG 4 times. Nothing. N4GG 4 times. K5D: N4G? Did I mention there are memorable QSOs in one's ham career?

N4GG 4 times. K5D: N4GG 599. I was in the log! With a 599 signal report too! Everybody is 599 of course – this is a DXpedition. A more accurate report would have been 119.

You know the moral to this story. There are no excuses. If you want to work DX you can work DX. How badly do you want it? You might have to be a Red Eyed Louie at 3 AM. You might get stuck with no antenna and be QRPP. You might have to plan your best-chance moment like an Old Timer would. But you can do it. You can quit but you can't fail.

73 and RIP, Cass. He was a DXer's DXer.

DX really is for the deserving. DX IS.

**Hal N4GG** ❖

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# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB

April 1996

## NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, April 16th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL, President**

I've seen and heard several people asking if the solar flux has gotten lower than 68 (which it hit a couple of weeks ago). The answer was "yes, but not by much." I hope I don't have to see it get much lower. At least I haven't missed much DX due to my business travels. I suppose it would be more frustrating to miss out on some fat, juicy (read loud) new ones. I know there are active stations out there that I need, I just can't hear 'em!

The WPX Phone contest is over. Thank goodness. I'm tired of getting fooled (or having my state-of-the-art logging program get fooled) by all the "creative" prefixes. The latest was WR6R/WH7. Apparently Kure Island is now KH7K. So much for my short-lived victory dance. I should have known; if Al was going to Kure, we probably would have heard about it beforehand. Isn't a WR6 prefix rare enough without resorting to subterfuge? In any case, I'll be in his log as a "unique." After figuring out he wasn't a new one, I got disgusted and worked on my chores. Maybe I should work the WPX CW in May with some unusual (but legitimate) 4-call area prefix. "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!"

I'm already beginning to think about candidates for this year's SEDX Club Honor Roll selection. I could use your help. If you have a favorite, please let me know. I had several, but after checking the plaque, I had to eliminate all of them; they were already there! Of course, if you have a desire to be the selection for this year, it's not too late! Just move up the timetable for that DXpedition you've been planning to Yemen, North Korea, Bhutan... or be real loud from Laccadive, Mount Athos or Burma.

That should do it!

Ken (JA1CMD/AD4WF) had to cancel his trip to Christmas and Cocos-Keeling due to pressing business in Tokyo. Martti Laine to the rescue! By the time you read this, Martti, his wife Leena and son Petri will have activated Christmas Island as VK9XM with a new "20 pound, 1 KW DXpedition station that fits into carry-on baggage." They're going to try it out on Christmas. Doesn't Australia (and possessions) have a power limit somewhat below 1 KW?

Don't forget to read the proposed revisions to the club's constitution and bylaws that were included with last month's newsletter. We're supposed to vote on it at the upcoming meeting. If you're prepared, the vote should move along faster and leave us time for fun instead of mundane house-keeping chores.

Hope to see all of you there!

73, Steve, KR4DL

## FROM THE VP

**-Sonny Marsh, KE4LDJ, VP**

Our program next month will center on QSL'ing. Nancy, NK4U will instruct us on the fine art of getting that elusive piece of paper from all over the world. Obviously, some techniques are better than others. I'm sure everyone will want to share their personal successes well as a few traps. Come and join the sure to be lively discussion!

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

-73, Sonny, KE4LDJ

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# MINUTES, SEDXC MEETING 3/19/96

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT

## Meeting Minutes - March 19, 1996

Moved, seconded and carried that the January meeting minutes as published in our last newsletter be accepted as presented and that the reading of February's minutes be waived. K2UFT appointed to take meeting minutes in absence of W4OUN.

KR4DL stated that the next issue of the bulletin will include the club roster. K4PI will turn over his electronic database records on members in past years so that a historical data base will be available for purposes of our forthcoming achievement award.

KR4DL read a request from WA3YVN for financial support for the forthcoming expedition to ZL8 - Kermedec Island. Treasurer reported that we had \$994 uncommitted funds in the treasury. ZL8 is number 8 on the country wants list and therefore qualifies for our financial support. It was moved, seconded and approved that the club would dollar match the donations made by club members up to \$250 maximum expenditure from the club treasury. Deadline for matching fund will be next regular meeting day, April 16.

KM4FV informed everyone that Al Hernandez, WA3YVN, would be doing a forum on his trip to the Kermedec Islands and member Bob Alphin, K4UEE will present his popular show on Easter Island during the forthcoming Atlanta HamFestival, June 8 and 9. Member K4PI will also do a presentation on noise detection and sleuthing. K2UFT stated that he would try to get the May advertising for the HamFestival changed to reflect the above in the hopes that we can attract more DXers to the event.

K2UFT inquired as to the interest in a banquet during the HamFestival which could include WA3YVN as a speaker. No particular interest was expressed by the members present so the idea did not reach the motion stage.

AE4EZ reported that he will once again be attending the Japanese Ham Convention in August where some 60,000 participants are expected. He wants to bring the SEDXC banner and sell logo shirts and pins. He will also be bringing sample copies of our achievement award. He will personally pay table fee. Motion on producing golf shirts will be raised at next meeting. Last year's trip by Kiyoshi brought the

club some \$400 in revenues.

KR4DL reported that he had nominated Bob, K4UEE as a wild card participant in the WRTC games in August. Bob was approved and has agreed to field a wild card team. Thus we'll be sending two SEDXC affiliated teams to the games.

KE4LDJ referred any members having interference problems to the FCC office in Duluth. They furnished him with FCC Bulletin CIB-2 on RFI problems and fact sheet CIB-10 concerning telephone interference. Sonny is experiencing major problems in his neighborhood and we wish him well in getting these resolved.

After a brief break and the raffling of prizes, the members were treated to a showing of the video from the recent Peter I expedition. Thanks to KR4UJ for providing the data projector which made viewing easier for all in attendance.

Meeting adjourned 9:15PM.

73 Dick, K2UFT

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## BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

Not much to talk about in the Activities Department this time around. You all get the bulletins, QST, CQ, etc. so I won't insult you by printing a bunch of reminders. Please, though, send those scores in and where permissible be sure to contribute your scores to the SEDXC Club.

There was some talk recently about the lack of interest among newer members getting involved in contesting. It strikes me that we ought to pay more attention to "elmering" our fellow members in the various facets of our end of the hobby. If it weren't for the help of Dale, N4REE and Jim, N4UCK I'd still be trying to connect to K4KG without success. If it weren't for Bill, KM9P or others like him providing Internet access, I'd still be scratching my head about which service to use or spending unnecessary money with some of the "full service" providers.

In many cases it would probably only take a little bit of "tucking under the wing" to develop some first class budding contesters or serious DXers. If you've got a first class station, consider having an open house in which the uninitiated (*continued p 3*)

(continued from p2) can get a peek at what its really like and perhaps catch some of the fever.

In the case of contesting, it shouldn't be a Sweepstakes or CQ WPX weekend, but perhaps one of the more sparsely attended tests when you're not going for the gold ring and wouldn't mind giving a little training time to a fellow ham. In the case of serious DXing, maybe its a weekend when a major expedition is on the air, and since you've already got the country on all bands and modes, give the neophyte a shot.

Another approach we might try is to set aside some time at our meetings for the sharing of knowledge with those in need. While its great to watch that DXpedition video, problems closer to home need solving and a period of time set aside for presenting the problem and requesting solutions might be useful.

I am reminded of Sonny Marsh putting forth his RFI problem with neighbors and their telephones. I'm not sure how many useful responses Sonny got, but he certainly was among a gaggle of experts. The problem for me at that meeting was that all of the experts were talking at once so I'm not really sure how much "sharing" occurred.

That's one person's opinion.

-73 Dick, K2UFT - Activities Manager

## FROM THE INTERNET

**-Dave Thompson, K4JRB**

thompson@mindspring.com

The following is from VE2ZP as copied April 1st on the Internet Contest Reflector:

ITU: NEW CALLSIGNS TO INCLUDE PUNCTUATION MARKS

GENEVA (1 April) - The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) announced that starting today, it will expand the available callsign blocks by introducing punctuation marks as characters in radio station callsigns. This has become necessary as the number of newly-independent states has exceeded the number-letter combinations hitherto used by the ITU to distinguish radio stations around the world. Four new ITU members were allocated blocks of callsigns in the new format which they may assign to radio stations under their jurisdiction. The new allocations are as follows: Gallardia - @AA to @ZZ; Grand Fenwick - #AA to #ZZ; Dispepsia - &AA to &ZZ; Republic of Madawaska !AA to !ZZ. (Comment: Amateur callsigns would likely follow the format @A1CW, &M3DX, etc.)

Several ITU member administrations have indicated that they will follow the ITU's example and employ punctuation marks to supplement the callsign blocks now available to them. Industry Canada has announced that starting 1 January 1999, all new station licences issued to Radio Amateurs in the new territory of Nunavut will bear VE# prefixes, and VE8 amateurs in the new territory can exchange their existing calls for VE# at their option. Effective today, IC will begin issuing two-character suffix callsigns with !, @, \$, %, ^, &, \*, (and ) in all Canadian call areas. IC will also include these characters in morse code examinations for the Amateur Service.

Lets line up for &A9DX from Dispepsia or maybe \$\$4QSL from Seborga before somebody else get the call!

-Dave K4JRB

**DXPEDITION to VK9C & VK9X**  
Op. Ken, AD4WF & JAICMD

**CANCELLED**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**-Nancy Draheim, NK4U**

Balance 2/28/96 (Checkbook)	<u>\$2182.47</u>
Income:	<u>\$71.00</u>
Expenses:	
Newsletter (2 months)	115.40
	88.46
Balance Checking 3/31/96	<u>\$2049.61</u>

See everyone on the 16th.

-73, Nancy NK4U

## DX TIDBITS

**-Rick, N4XMX**

Well, WPX has come and gone. I tried to hang out on the low bands but not very much was cooking. Did get AH8A on 15M. Best catches were J56DY 20M SSB one minute before contest started and ZD7VJ on 20M CW just as the contest was over. As always, hard to decide whether to DX or contest! Of course the deserving know the answer... -CU in the pileups... Rick, N4XMX

April 1996

SEDXC

Page 3