

TOP SHAPE FOR TOP BAND  
(or, It's not too early to think about next winter!)

Believe it or not, it is time to start preparing for the 1984/85 160M and 80M season. We hope to have a program this summer on 160 Meter operating by our own Paul Newberry, N4PN, one of the early holders of DXCC 160. Here are a few things you might want to gather up this summer while you are NOT in a hurry to find them.

A DAILY Sunrise/Sunset Schedule for YOUR QTH is a MUST! ON4UN puts out a book of Sunrise/Sunset charts. John also wrote a very good book, "80 Meter DX'ing." Club member John Battle, N4OE, came up with the formulas to figure it yourself and WB4ZNH wrote a BASIC program on a TRS-80 computer that uses these formulas. Carl and John will make the information available to anyone who is interested for free.

A device called "The DX Edge" is extremely handy. It shows the gray-line on a world map that is also useful in determining probable long path openings on other bands as well. This product costs about \$15 and is advertised in both CQ and QST.

In the antenna department, you might spend some time surveying your real estate for ways to stretch a thin wire about 10 feet above the ground. Considerations will be how far and how many different directions you can go. The scheduled program will explain how to best utilize the space which you have. Transmitting antennas will also be discussed but for right now, you want to hoard all the wire you can get your hands on. No size is too small. Insulation is likewise no problem. Ground radials can be any size and receiving wires can also be as small as #20 with no difficulties encountered. You can also save money on coax for feeding receiving antennas. You should be able to come across some 75 Ohm (RG59) at Super prices. If so, grab it! Cable TV Companies call this "Drop Cable" and you might be able to get some scraps from them.

An Amplifier which tunes 160 would certainly help, but don't shy away because you don't have a lot of power on that band. Quite a bit can be worked with little effort using the exciter only.

The last suggestion isn't necessary but would be a big asset. With the Atlanta Hamfest coming up soon you should consider an audio filter and a GOOD headset. These are things which would be good to have for your station anyway but will be particularly nice next winter. You still have plenty of time, but NOW is the time to begin. See you on TOP BAND next fall!

\*\*\*\*\*  
73 de Mike Greenway, K4PI  
\*\*\*\*\*

STRAYS

HELP! K4DLI - VK9X, OY, and TN. N4NX - VKØ MacQ(CW), ZL8/K (CW). WB4ZNH - XU.

The "HELP" column is for you. If you are chasing a particularly elusive DX station(s) let your editor know and you will be listed in the "HELP" column for up to three prefixes.

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR your DXPO ribbon to Dayton, Visalia and other hamfests!!!!!!

K4PI, your 1984 program chairman, is looking for suggestions, requests and ideas for programs. Your input will be appreciated. Call Mike at 942-4576.

INTERNATIONAL 160 METER OPERATORS GATHERING - Suite 325, Stouffer's Dayton Plaza Hotel, during the 1984 DAYTON HAMVENTION. Slide presentations include: HZ1AB, VK9ZR, VKØJS, P41C, HKØBKX, and HKØCOP. Additional info contact: (SEDXC mem.) K8CFU, 347 Jackson Rd., Fletcher, NC 28732, or Barry(W9UCW) or Joyce Boothe, 705 May Ct., Channahon, IL 60410.  
\*\*\*\*\*

THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF A LETTER FROM AN AMATEUR TO HIS INSURANCE COMPANY WHICH IS TRYING TO DECIDE TO PAY HIS CLAIM AFTER AN ANTENNA PROJECT. THIS IS SENT TO US FROM RUSS, WA4BSN AND IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD ALL CONSIDER BEFORE WE ATTEMPT A MAJOR PROJECT.

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block NO.3 on the accident reporting form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust that the following details

will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools. You will note, in block NO.11 of the accident reporting form, that I weigh only 155 lbs.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block NO.11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries, when I fell onto the pile of tools and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me - I again lost presence of mind. I let go of the rope.

Sincerely,  
(name withheld)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THE TRADER

FOR SALE or TRADE: TRS-80 MODEL II with Disk Drive expansion (total of 3 each 8-inch floppy disks); much software on MANY diskettes; Radio Shack Dot Matrix Printer, LP-VI. Call Jim Mullins, KC4IX, at 993-1234 (office).

FREE: GLA-1000 with the purchase of nice KWM-2 and Power Supply. FOR SALE - IBM PC, with or without Color/Graphics and Multi-function boards. WB4ZNH, 478-3255.

FOR SALE: BC-221 Freq. meter, manual, and ORIGINAL military A/C PS; \$55. Various ARC-5 military surplus equipment. WANTED: 3 drawer steelmaster 5" X 6-1/2". Call Bill, N4NX, at 993-3631.

\*\*\*\*\*

YOUR BULLETIN still needs contributing authors. I really enjoy writing the bulletin, but things are getting very hectic around here, and then I will have to have some relief. Would someone please help? Just an occasional month would be of GREAT assistance.

BULLETIN COPYING - Our thanks to Jim Steible, K4DLI, for copying this month's bulletin. Please help if you can! If you can "host" the bulletin copying one month, please call our Secretary, Joel, WA4HNL, at 394-5466 with the information.

\*\*\*\*\* 73 de wb4znh



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

## W4NT

HEADQUARTERED IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
 DX Alert 147.500, also 147.795T/.195R  
 DX Ragchew 147.470, .540S, .795T/.195R  
 Meeting Date: April 17, 1984  
 Time: 7:30 PM (Local)  
 Place: Lutheran Church at the corner of Peachtree  
 and Narmore. (2 Blocks North of Phipps Plaza.)

\*\*\*\*\*

THE MARCH PROGRAM was WELL attended and the donations paid for the TI-99 Computer plus the meeting room with a little leftover! Everyone seemed to enjoy the demonstrations. Ed Sleight's Contest program for the Radio Shack machine was very very impressive!

THE APRIL PROGRAM will be a slide show on the Pribalof Islands. It comes to us somewhat indirectly from the Connecticut DX group in the Hartford area.

\*\*\*\*\*

LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDER-Need new renewal dates for K0ALL, K4STK, K05G, WB4EDD and WA4JTI.

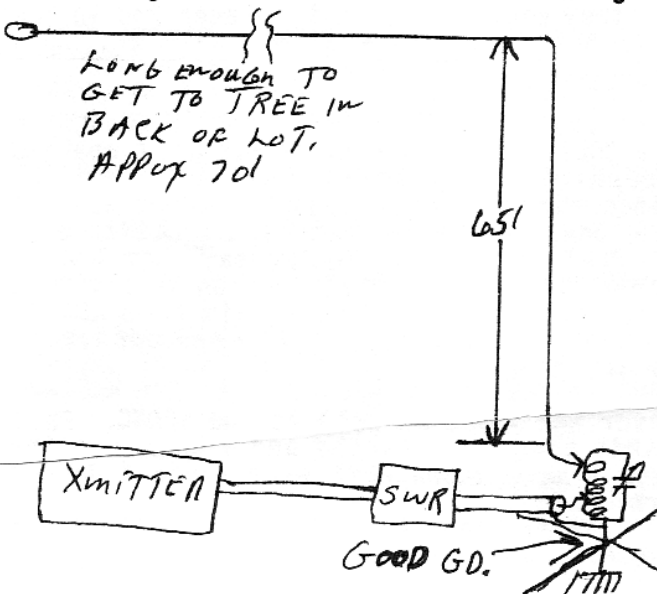
\*\*\*\*\*

CONTEST CORNER - Well I hope everyone will be at the meeting on April 17th to see who gets the first award of 1984. Can you guess who it will be? I'll give you one little clue----- it wasn't me and it wasn't Carl. Carl didn't even enter---did you Carl? We had 10 entries in the March contest and I thank each and every one.

I know some are already hot at work on the April QRP contest. Lets see if we can't get more entries in April and increase the number each month. Don't just think everyone else will enter and you set back-----get in there and work a few and send in your score. Get me your scores for the April QRP contest as soon as you can after April 30th.

Next month, May, is the CQ WPX CW contest. Soooo--- all you CW buffs out there dust off your bugs and get with it on the weekend of May 26-27.

Although it may be getting a little late in the season for 160 and 80 meters here is the method I use for feeding an inverted "L" ant. on either of these bands. It works well and the length of the wire is not too critical. Remember, we have a 160 meter contest next winter so get out there this summer and get set up for it.



Take a coil and cap that will tune to the frequency you want and will handle the power you will run and tap the coax feed up from the gnd. end about 3 or 4 turns. This will be adjusted later for best SWR. Put an RF ampmeter (about 0-3 amp) in the ant. line and apply a little power to get a reading. Tune the cap. to resonance, as indicated by a dip in the SWR then move the ant tap up or down the coil for max. current in the ant. There is interaction so you have to keep rechecking the tuning and the tap again move the coax tap to get the lowest SWR. Sometimes this will only be 1/4 turn around the coil so you have to move in small amounts.

This is an easy and simple way to load anything over 1/4 wavelength and it works great on 160, 80, or 40 if you just retune the LC circuit and change the taps.

I plan to have a motor driven cap. with some relays to change taps installed this summer

so I'll be ready on 160 and 80 this fall.

Well, see you at the meeting. Till then good DX and 73. Jim K4DLI

\*\*\*\*\*  
MEMBERSHIP DUES have NOT been RECEIVED from these people and we regret the loss of their interest. Unfortunately, we cannot continue to mail the club bulletin without dues. This is the last regular mailing to these folks.

K4BAM, K4BBF, KC4CM, WB4CSW, AA4DR, N4DXX, AA4GA, W4GBU, W4HR, KC4IT, WB4JKY, WB4LJP, WD4LRB, K4MQG, W4MWT, KD4NB, W4NET, WA4NIB, W4PPT, K3PPY, W4PTH, WB4RUA, WA4SSU, KB4TS, WA4UNZ, K4UWJ, N4VZ, NT4W, WA4WLZ, N4WQ, KA4WUW, ND4Y, W4YH, & AE4Z.  
\*\*\*\*\*

### MEET THE DXERS

Phil Latta was a college student at Wake Forest when his brother became a Ham Radio operator. Phil came home to Atlanta and found Bill, W4FIN, having a great time with his new hobby. Never being one to pass up a good thing, Phil was soon licensed as W4GTS. That was on May 8, 1940. Phil had little time to enjoy his new found pastime as the winds of war soon found Phil. Trying to make the best of being drafted, Phil asked to be assigned to the Signal Corps since he was a Radio amateur. It worked! As a college graduate, Phil was able to go to Officers Candidate School. This story is starting to sound like Phil had a soft job during the Big War. Well, not exactly, while Phil wasn't in a foxhole shooting it out with the Germans, he was very near the front in a little tent with a small portable radar unit watching for Jerry planes. Several of his fellow radar operators got killed. It seems that nearly as soon as you could "see" the enemy on the scope, you could hear his engine! I could tell that Phil did not have the highest regard for that early equipment.

One thing Phil did acquire from his service in Europe was the desire to travel. It is possible that the seed had actually already been planted. Phil did his graduate work at Laval Univ. in Quebec and McGill Univ. in Montreal. Somewhere along the way Phil learned several languages. Phil is working on DXCC eyeball. He has visited 57 countries and has operated from several.

After the war, Phil went to work for the City of Atlanta as a Civil Engineer. He has been with the city for 31 years. A few years later Phil and Margaret were married. They have a married daughter, Phyllis Kathryn Latta Bridges.

Phil's interests in Ham Radio are wide and varied, but his main ones are DXing and Contesting. Phil was one of the 10 operators to go to Navassa Island in 1972. The callsign was KC4DX. To jog some old memories, the trip included W4GKF, WA4VWV, WB4SST, WB4UPC, K4PGM, K3FPY, K4TMA and W2NSD (yes, Wayne Green). Phil was one of the operators of W4NT/C6A in the 1978 CQ WW Phone and VP5EE in the 1980 ARRL DX Phone. Phil has always enjoyed contests no matter how big or how trivial they might seem. Phil placed 2nd in the Atlanta Radio Club's "Singleton Slaughter", a contest to work stations with a single letter suffix (e.g. AA1A).

Phil's station consists of a 110-foot tower with a Moseley CL-36, a Kenwood TS-820S and an SB-220. Backup equipment is a KWM-2, 75S-3, and a 30L1. Phil prefers CW but will operate SSB, especially if it is for a new country! Speaking of countries, Phil has them all except for Burma. When asked for some words of encouragement or PHILosophy, there was not the least hesitation. Phil delved right into the benefits of the mutual aid attitude of the SEDXC. "While I have the floor, so to speak," Phil exclaimed, "let me say that I will be eternally grateful for all the phone calls over the years!" Phil went on to say that during a very short span of time, he had received phone calls alerting him from KB4IT, WB4GNT, K4SB, N4PN, and WA4VDE (some more than once!) with the result of 3 new countries and the Pribalof Islands which might be a new one for him.

Phil has been active in the Atlanta Radio Club over the years as well as the SEDXC. Phil has been quite involved with the ARC's scholarship program. Martha and I have had the personal pleasure of DXpeditioning with Phil, and I have known Phil ever since I joined the SEDXC in 1973. We are fortunate to have DXers of Phil's quality in our club!

\*\*\*\*\*