



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.

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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