



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

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.

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

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

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