



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB

W4NT

April 1999

## MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tues., April 20th, 7:30 PM, TECH AMERICA, just north on Buford Hwy north of I-285.

## VP CORNER

-Jim Worthington, AD4J

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-Mike Greenway, K4PI

Well we just passed through the spring equinox communications above 50 MHz as well as the equipment and there were some interesting conditions as usual. More so on VHF for me. The last few years there were some good DX on the low bands, but this year I personally didn't notice much although it could have been there. I did notice it on VHF with the transequatorial propagation that comes with the equinox. Luckily I took a week of vacation this year right at the equinox and was able to be at home when 6 meters would open with TE to America. It could have been better I think if the flux had been higher.

The flux has gone way down in the past few weeks. It is down to about 103 which I think is where it was last fall. I hope this cycle is not a bust. The flux is predicted to go back up in the next few days. I keep dreaming of numbers over 200 for days on end. I've had some good success in cleaning up noise lately both on my line for the fixed station and ignition noise for the mobile. I think I finally have the cure for ignition noise which is the curse of all mobile ops unless they own a diesel.

Time to get the mobile ready for the Georgia QSO Party. It is scheduled for July 31-Aug 1. Don't forget Field Day. If you are on the SEDXC Reflector then you know some of the details. If you are not and you need info let me know and I will get you in touch with the group. The club is getting together with the SECC for both events. We have a good program this month from one of our members, Tom, N4XP.. Don't miss it!!

The March meeting featured a talk by Neil Sulmeyer, K4EA, on VHF DXing. Neil explained the many propagation modes that allow long distance

Speaking of weak signals, I've had a renewed interest in QRP operation, lately. I went to a meeting of the North Georgia QRP group at the beginning of this month (They meet at 11 AM on the first Saturday of each even month at Tech America). The highlight of the meeting was when W4DU worked a TI from the Southparking lot using a portable vertical and 500 milliwatts.

The rig was a slick new kit called the Elecraft K2 just built by W4DU, Ken Evans, who will be the speaker at the May SEDXC meeting. Ken will talk to us about QRP DXing and plans to bring his K2 along. I'm looking around for a simple QRP rig and having a lot of fun turning the power down to 4 watts on my TS-870S in the meantime.

This month, our program will be presented by Tom Harrell, N4XP, on his recent V7 operation.

-73, Jim AD4J

## TREASURERS REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

No report this month.

73 Mike Greenway, K4PI, P49I

# ELECTIONS COMING UP, BE THINKING OF NEW OFFICERS

## SEDXC MINUTES 3/16/99

**-Rick Glisson, N4XMX, Sec.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Mike, K4PI, President. There were 26 members present. Old Business: Nothing brought up. New business: It was announced that Barbara Edwards, KC4PBB, had become a silent key. DX news included that E4 cards would be accepted by ARRL on or after 10/1/99. The HK0/M DXpedition was also mentioned.

The program for next month will be Tom, N4XP, on his latest V7 operation.

Field Day: The SEDXC and SECC will try to get together for a field day operation. Jay, K4OGG, is finding a location. Jim, AD4J, will contact Bob, K4UEE about other details.

Rick, N4XMX, showed the clock marketed by Damark and others that updates itself every night to the WWV signal in Colorado. Cost was 39.95 plus shipping.

The following Saturday is the hamfest in Cobb County. The SECC plus SEDXC members will have a meeting about the GA QSO party at 10:00 AM.

It is hoped that in the future that we will be able to have the Pratas program by Tim, N4NG.

The program was done by Neal, K4EA, about VHF contesting. His group uses a NC site for maximum coverage. He showed several setups including mobile.

Neil also covered the different types of propagation and explained them thoroughly. This helps us to understand why VHF acts like it does and a lot of this is similar to what we experience on 10M. Thanks Neil!

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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### TIP #6 FROM MR. 160

**-Mike Greenway, K4PI**

There is a lot of good free cable out there that has less loss than anything you are going pay a \$1 a foot for. I know most have heard of it but I find few using it. I am speaking of the cable TV hardline. Even though it is 75 ohms the small difference from 50 ohms makes no difference.

There are 50:75 ohm transformers on the mar-

ket if you want to make it as correct as you can. Unfortunately the are about \$40 each built and you will need 2 of them but they are wide band and efficient. You can buy them in a kit for about \$25 each.

Amidon is where I have seen them. If you are going to use it just on a single band you can go with the synchronous transformer, which is just several lengths of different impedance cables. If you need info on this type transformer let me know. I use one on my 40 M antenna.

Connectors are another problem. If you want to go first class you can buy them from Woodland Park Antennas. Charles is at most of the hamfest and he has an email address. Up to now I have rolled my own with the use of mini boxes from Radio Shack where I transition from the hardline to coax. I plan to get some commercial ones and try them.

To find the cable, I have asked the linemen if they have any scraps left over. Usually when they get down to around 200 foot or so they will haul it back to the scrap yard. They usually have a contract with a scrap dealer to pick it up. I usually give them a few bucks for some refreshments and they will sometimes drop it off in my driveway at the end of their day. The 1/2 size is easiest to find connectors for as you can go to Home Depot and get the parts, but the larger stuff is harder to do.

73 Mike Greenway, K4PI, P49I

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### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

**-Phil Latta, W4GTS**

The Southeastern DX Club continues to be a great one, what with good attendance, outstanding programs, congenial fellowship, and an informative newsletter.

One suggestion: How about helping us with some "lost" DX mailing addresses? Even with willing friends and a tip-top assortment of ultra-modern communications equipment we can't find 'em all. If you need help how about letting Rick print it!

I'll start the ball rolling (and may it continue) with: ER1GO, PA6W, and HK7/SM5KV.

73, Phil, W4GTS

P.S.: Has anybody ever heard of uncongenial fellow-ship?

## DX TIDBITS

-Rick Glisson, N4XXM

Ah, contests! What would we do without them? Some people can't stand them, messes up their rag chew on Friday evening. Most of these people also don't care for DXpeditions either. They take up perfectly good bits of 20 from 14.195 up to 14.220. They even have the gall to be in the novice band on 28.49 sometimes! And we all know what happens when one wanders above 3.800...

Personally, contests are one of the DX'ers best friend. What else would make all sorts of countries get on 80 meters? The last WPX I worked three new ones on 80M including CN with casual operating.

If I need JA's on CW (I do), all I do is check out the JA contest and work 15 of them in 15 minutes on 15M (as I did). Contests get locals on who might otherwise watch TV instead of getting you a needed band country.

Contests also get groups of serious operators to do the multi-multi thing and cover the band from a particular place. Almost everybody's first P4, VP5, VP2 anything, V3 and VP9 came from a contest. Some of the more exotic places these brave souls have gone to include OH0, OJ0, MV, T33, E4, and 3V.

The one choice you do have to make is whether you are a DX'er or Contester for the duration. This will make the difference whether you have 100 QSO's or 2000 QSO's in your log. Obviously, the DX'er will be very discriminating about where he or she spends their time. Every station is carefully vetted against the criteria of 1) All time new one? (not likely) or 2) Don't have a card on this band (more likely).

Typical DX'er Setup: Your logging program is up to be instantly able to check for #1 or #2 above. The packet is running so as to look for the All Time New One that might just be out there. DX bulletins are stacked nearby for quick QSL info. Any search and pouncing (S & P) is done on the band you still need for 5BDXCC (usually 80). If you have 5BDXCC already, change S & P band to 160! GeoClock running.

Typical Contesting Setup: Whatever it takes to actually get a high score! Lots of QSO's. 48 hours if possible of non-interrupted operating.

The non DX'er and Contester can rag chew on 30, 17 and 12M for a weekend. Also, Most contests only use one mode or band. Plenty of room!

CU in the pileups.. Rick, N4XXM

## GEORGIA QSO PARTY

(proposed rules in part)

Sponsored by SECC and SEDXC

**Object:** For amateurs outside of the state of Georgia to make contact with as many Georgia stations as possible. Georgia stations work everyone.

**Contest Period:** July 31 and August 1, 1999. There are two operating periods. 1800Z July 31 - 0359Z August 1 and 1400Z August 1 - 2359Z August 1. 20 hours total. All stations may operate the full 20 hours.

**Categories:** Single operator, Multioperator, Multi-single, Multi-multi, Rover, Novice/technician.

**Power** Three power output categories for all categories. Logs not showing power output category will be listed as high power.

**QRP** - five watts output or less **Low Power** - 150 watts output or less. **High power** - more than 150 watts output.

**Modes** There are no separate categories for modes. All stations are encouraged to use both modes. Contest Exchange **Georgia** stations send signal report and county.

**Non-Georgia W/VE stations** (including KH6/KL7) send signal report and state or VE multiplier area.

**DX stations** (including KH2/KP4, etc.) send signal report and "DX" or country abbreviation. Scoring

**QSO Points.** Each complete non-duplicate Phone contact is worth one point. Each complete non-duplicate CW contact is worth two points. No partial contact credit. Duplicate contacts must be clearly identified and counted as zero points (but not removed from the log)..

**Multipliers.**

**For Georgia stations** 50 states (including GA), Canada: NS, NB, PEI, NF (VO1, VO2), QC, ON, MB, SK, AB, BC, NW (VE8, VY1, VY0). DX counts for QSO points, but not for multipliers. A multiplier can be counted once per mode. The maximum is 61 per mode or a total of 122.

**For non-Georgia stations** Georgia counties per mode (a maximum of 159 per mode). Georgia mobile and portable stations which change counties are considered to be a new station and may be contacted again for point and multiplier credit. Mobiles and portables which qualify for the rover category are requested to submit separate scores for each county plus a combined rover score, which would be determined by the number of QSO points made from each location totaled and multiplied by the multipliers determined as if the contacts had been made all from one location (maximum of 59 per mode).

**Final score:** Multiply QSO points by total multipliers.

**Suggested** CW - 3.545, 3.685, 7.045, 7.110, 14.045, 21.045, 21.110, 28.045, 28.110. Frequencies Phone: 3.850, 7.225, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450.

Look for SSB activity on the hour and CW on the half hour. No 160 meter, WARC band, or VHF band QSOs count for the contest.

**Miscellaneous** Call signs and exchange information must be received by each station for a complete QSO.

No cross-mode contact. CW contacts may not be made in the phone sub-bands. Stations may be worked once per mode, per band.

*(These are only an outline of the rules. Complete rules will be published later. -ed)*