



Southeastern DX Club

W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB

May 2012

President's Report:

This month has brought us two great DXpeditions to fill in our DXCC charts. The 7O6T Yemen DXpedition team have provided many of us with the 5th most wanted entity. The second DXpedition team to show up is the 6O6CW Somalia team. Both DXpeditions have shown great operating skills from both the DXpedition teams and the worldwide ham community. The DXpeditions regrettably also surfaced some operators with bad habits that inhibit good operators from making a contact.

As a specialized radio club one of club's endeavors is to help others obtain their DXCC certifications. Some of the "Bad Operators" may not recognize their faults. Therefore, when possible it behooves each of us to assist the new DXer in ways to enhance their operating skills and minimize the bad on-the-air habits that surface in a DX pileup.

There are several ways to get our message to the aspiring DXer. One way is through our Club's monthly club meetings with specific programs and just casual conversations with the members. Our seasoned members that go to regional hamfests presenting the DX101 series on DXing has resulted in another method to impart best practices in the DX pileups. Finally the one-on-one mentoring method provides a measure of mission accomplished for both the mentor and the new DXer.

Over the last several years we have seen some new hams enter the world of DXing and through the efforts of our Club members we have watched the new hams enjoy the DX chasing and their attainment of their DXCC

certificate. Keep up the good work. Maybe one day there will be no more band police instructing the folks to listen-up. The tuner-uppers will have graduated to grown-up status, controlling their urge to be disruptive and no less just down right annoying. In the meantime let's just continue to provide our helpful instructions and show examples of good operating practices.

Enjoy the pickings and meeting of old friends at the Dayton hamfest. For those not traveling to Dayton our Club May 17th meeting program will be a video sent to the SEDXC by the South Sudan STØR DXpedition team as a thank you for our Club's support.

73,

Jim C. KT4MM

There are no other Officers reports this month. Guess everyone is busy getting ready for Dayton.

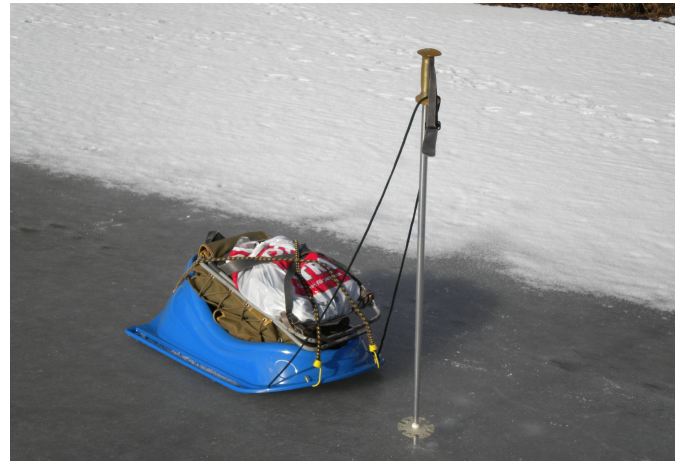
Remember to check out the route up I-75 if you are driving up. There is a BIG problem in Tennessee north of Knoxville.

We do have a nice article presented by Dale Nordin, K4HGG, from his friend Nils-Olof Karlberg, SM7DBD. Dale sent the translation from Swedish.

Here is a description (translated) and pictures of a "DXpedition" from an old-time friend SM7DBD Nils-Olof Karlberg. He went out on the ice of a nearby lake to an island and set up at station using a TS-50. The island is part of a nature reserve belonging

to an organization called FF (Forest and Fauna). On the website of SK6AW (Hisingens Radio Klubb) there is a description of the FF organization along with a diploma <http://smff.sk6aw.net/menu/omsmff> . Unfortunately the website is only in Swedish.

"I had my equipment (TS-50, battery, stool and antenna, an 80/40 meter dipole) on a child's sled (see the pictures) that I dragged over the ice that was over 20-30 cm thick. There was clear ice. It was sunny, almost no wind and a couple of minus degrees Celsius, so it was perfect day to be outside. Because the antenna was hung over the water, it resulted in very good signals, mostly S9 or S9+. This generated a real pile-up (the activity was announced on the SK6AW website and I worked about 60 QSOs in one hour (CW and SSB)."



"I have even been out in the nature reserves in the woods around here, but unfortunately I didn't have the my camera with me. I was even on the air in a nature reserve on the island of Öland last summer but then I operated used the lazy man's version (I sat in the car)."

Thanks to Dale and Nils-Olof for this account of his "Mini DXpedition".

Maybe -2 Celsius is a perfect day for Nils but, I take the inside of the shack in weather like that. Guess it is just from "Getting Old"!

If anyone else has any good stories please send them in.

Also, this month we are presenting another of the columns by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, who produces these columns for Bulletin and News Letter editors.

Mailing lists, blogs, and podcasts are good sources of ham info

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the Internet is possibly the best way to learn as much as you can about amateur radio. On the Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence, these resources give you access to hundreds, if not thousands, of Elmers.

One mailing list that I always suggest to new hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup>) . The purpose of this group is to help "those who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This mailing list has a good mix of beginners and experts, and most questions are answered quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like about this group is that the moderators do a good job of keeping the discussions on track, and will squelch them when they stray off topic or threaten to turn into flame wars.

In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you might also want to join a more targeted mailing list. For example, if you're interested in learning Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the SolidCpyCW list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/>). If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/>). Chances are that no matter what your interest, there's probably a mailing list to discuss that interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists and could probably spend most of my day just reading and replying to them. In order to get the most out of them, without them taking away from my on-air time, I only read those threads that I am really interested in, and even then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

Blogs, podcasts and videos

In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about amateur radio. I blog about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com, and lots of hams find it a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (<http://www.myamateurradio.com>). Since 2008, Jerry, KDØBIK, has been producing PARP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online. For other podcasts, consult the list on Jerry's home page.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The American Radio Relay League has its own channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ>), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE>). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!

Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

When he's not answering yet another e-mail, Dan blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Our thanks to Dan for providing this service to editors searching for articles to print.

That's it for another month.

We will see some of you in Dayton and don't forget the SEDXC Dinner at the Stockyards Inn on Thursday evening. Also, if you need tickets to the DX Dinner be sure to contact Mike, ND4V, at nd4v@comcast.net for you tickets.

If you are not going to Dayton be sure to attend the club meeting on Thursday night to see the STØR video.

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SPECIAL NOTE:
The club is now using the Repeater on 145.410, down 600, for chatting and real time DX announcements. Join the group there. No tone required

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