



Bulletin



May 2021

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This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: **Thursday May 20th @ 7:00 PM**

Location: **Zoom Telemeeting**

Info: www.sedxc.org

Topic: **"Rig in a Box" Project**

Speaker: **Greg W6IZT**

From the Prez



Dick K5TF

So many thank you's are in order that I hardly know where to start. First and foremost, thank you to the entire club membership for your on-going support of the SEDXC in my absence this year, including especially, to your Board members who have carried additional duties and responsibilities beyond those set forth in their job descriptions. Thank you to Jeff K1ZN for all of your efforts to set up programs and guide the monthly on-line meetings, in addition to your regular duties as club Treasurer.

A bit of background, my elderly mother came to live in Atlanta two years ago. A short time after settling in at the senior living community where she resided, she suffered a stroke which resulted in a significant loss of vision in addition to the onset of dementia. She declined rather quickly and was placed in hospice care, which lasted 16 months, ten of which were during the COVID pandemic which prevented me from being able to visit her except infrequently.

She died January 1, 2021 just two days shy of her 97th birthday. Even though it was an expected outcome, her death and the months leading up to it left me very emotionally drained and tired. I have recovered, however, thanks to so many of you who have called and written to share your support. And thanks to this wonderful hobby, and DXing especially, where I have been able to refocus during this time. Looking forward to this month's on-line meeting and the opportunity to be with you all again.

73,

Dick K5TF ♦

VP's Corner

Mike ND4V



I look forward to the nominating committee's report. I'm not renewing my membership until the new VP takes office. Hi! Hi!

When I joined SEDXC in 2002, we were meeting in a small classroom at Piedmont Hospital. I barely had DXCC on one band (10 meters). The friendships, encouragement, programs and tips learned since I joined enabled me to earn DXCC on every band except 6 meters where I need about 20 more! I don't say that to brag (much) but rather to say thanks to everyone who helped along the way.

If Paul N6PSE is successful with a trip to Bouvet Island, maybe I will finally make the Honor Roll. The DXpedition will again be hugely expensive. SEDXC board is recommending a hefty donation from club funds, and we encourage you to make an individual donation if you can. Remember the Club's ability to fund DXpeditions is limited to one half of the balance on hand at yearend. Let's pay our dues early and bump up that balance!

On a personal note, my recovery is still progressing to the satisfaction of the doctors. I still have one stubborn wound that is slowly healing. Thanks to all who have sent notes and called. Your kind thoughts raised my spirits more than you will know. A special thanks goes to Jeff, K1ZN who arranged the great programs in my absence.

73 and be careful out there.

Mike ND4V ♦

Treasurer's Journal

Jeff K1ZN



Our bank balance is \$15,229.29.

Expenses for this past month: \$25.09 paid out for SEDXC.org URL renewal.

Funding Requests. There are two requests approved by the SEDXC Executive Committee to be discussed and voted upon by the membership.

- \$350 to Clublog. The last donation by SEDXC for this valuable resource was \$250 in 2013.
- \$5,000 to the [3YØJ Bouvet DXpedition](#) team, payable 2/3 now and 1/3 at three months before the team departs for the rock. Additionally, we recommend that each SEDXC member consider an individual donation to the 3YØJ DXpedition Fund depending on his or her ability. The team needs \$652,000 for the total event, mostly to pay the Braveheart bill."

Respectively submitted,

Jeff K1ZN ♦

Around the Shack

de N4GG



My Squirrely BOG

This month we will drop in on the tangled web of a Beverage antenna, a squirrel and a high power amplifier. What could go wrong?

If you are into low band DXing you probably have a separate receiving antenna. Even if you don't however, you may know about Beverage antennas. Invented by Harold H. "Bev" Beverage in 1921, the Beverage has been a mainstay low-noise high-performance receiving antenna for 100 years – at both amateur and commercial stations. Wikipedia and the ARRL Antenna Book have good descriptions of a Beverage's design, theory and performance. It's a great antenna, and that is why it has stood the test of time.

Beverages have a drawback however – they are big. Beverages are typically one wavelength long, which for 160 meters is 545 feet. Very few QTHs have room for a full-sized 160 meter Beverage. Unless your backyard adjoins deep woods or you live on a farm, you probably won't own a full size 160 Beverage. You might be able to squeeze in a Beverage for 80 meters however. It would be around 260 feet long. Fortunately, not having the room for a Beverage is not the handicap it once was. Phased short verticals (on the order or 10 to 20 feet tall) now provide performance equal to a Beverage without the necessary acreage. Several companies sell phased vertical receiving systems and it's not difficult to make your own.

In addition to length, Beverages have a few other less-than-ideal characteristics. They work best strung about six feet above the ground. That makes them easy to work on, which is a good thing because deer, falling limbs, etc. will necessitate occasional repairs. Also, they only receive in two directions. To cover four directions requires two Beverages at right angles to each other. From here on the East Coast the "solution" is often to put up one Beverage pointed at Europe and settle for that. The vertical arrays are nice in that the good ones can be switched through eight directions.

In the past 30 years there has been interest in placing Beverage wires on the ground. Hence the name: BOG (Beverage on the ground). BOGs have two advantages over traditional Beverages. First, at ground level they have low maintenance and a low profile and second, they are half the length of a traditional Beverage. For 160 meters, 260 feet is a good length for a BOG and something shorter will work. An 80 meter BOG would be about 130 feet long.

Why are BOGs shorter? It's due to the velocity factor (V_f) of wire on the ground being around 0.5. This varies widely based on soil type and conductivity. The earth is part of a Beverage antenna, whether it's full sized or a BOG. I have heard stories of ardent DXers and contesters going out with a hose and watering the ground under a Beverage or BOG the day before the big DX shows up or the big contest starts. Is this true or folklore? I have personally used a ground return wire under a Beverage. This was on Bonaire (PJ4) at the suggestion of W4OC (SK). The "earth" on Bonaire is mostly coral and non-conductive. The underlying ground wire worked well.

When in Maryland, N4GG was on a small lot with acres of commons-property woods behind it and, of course, deed restrictions. I was able to get some dipoles and Lazy-H's up in the woods, but a Beverage was out of the question. I didn't have 525 linear feet and neighbors routinely roamed the woods. A six-foot high wire wasn't possible. So what about a BOG? Being an experimenter at heart I figured it was worth a try. I strung 250 of wire on the ground in the woods, pointing toward Europe. I installed the appropriate terminating resistor at the far end and connected it to a ground rod. Ask me sometime about laying wire in the woods at night and stealthily driving ground rods. It took about 100 feet of RG8/X to get from the shack to the BOG feed point.

Performance of my BOG became a mystery for two years. It seemed to work great the first night I owned it. It was pointed toward Europe and the signal to noise ratio for European stations was a vast improvement on the BOG vs. the transmitting antenna. These things work (or so I thought)!

The second night, performance was way down. In fact, besides signal levels being down, the directivity and signal-to-noise improvement of the prior night seemed to be gone. Was the second night a propagation fluke? 160 is like that--good one night and poor the next. Or was the first night just my confirmation-bias at work? Maybe BOGs don't work?

After several nights I gave up on the BOG. It didn't work. The first night performance must have been my imagination. I walked the wire in the woods and checked the connections multiple times. It was all there, hooked up properly and not working. I could hear a few stations, faintly, but that was not consistent with what others' claimed.

This took place in 1997 around the time two-meter spotting networks started up. There was a very large and active network in the metro DC/MD/VA area and the closest network station to me (N3RR) was about two miles away. I decided the 100 feet of RG8/X feeding the dead BOG for the past two years would be better served feeding a small two-meter ground plane I could use to log into the spotting network. That all went smoothly enough, and I was able to log into the network, but slowly something dawned on me. The two-meter signal from N3RR – a mere two miles away—was weak. Also, I could tell my signal as received at N3RR was weak due to the network often ignoring me in favor of stronger stations.

I'm slow sometimes, but I finally deduced it was time to check the coax. Sure enough, the ground plane was an open circuit at the antenna end, and I measured a short at the shack end. Where was the short? Somewhere out in the 100 foot run of coax something had happened.

Knowing there was a short somewhere in the coax and actually finding it were two different things. This was Maryland in the winter. The coax was under 4 inches of snow. Snow with a nice crunchy ice cap. If you have lived in the north you are familiar with the slight thawing of snow during the day followed by refreezing at night, resulting in ice on top of snow. I *really* didn't want to go out back and find that short. It was cold and I'd potentially be digging up 100 feet of snow to inspect the coax while not being exactly sure what I was looking for. If the shield was touching the center conductor inside the jacket, I would not be able to see it.

One of the acquisitions at N4GG at that time was an Alpha 99 amp. As I became familiar with that amp I marveled at how forgiving the output tuning was. I think Alpha rated that amp for up to 3:1 SWR but I routinely used it at much higher SWR and the amp never cared. The thing was built like a tank. After 60 years of building, repairing and operating amps of every description, the Alpha 99 is still my favorite manual tune amplifier.

Pondering my shorted coax dilemma, I had an idea. How much power could an Alpha 99 deliver into shorted coax? This is not the sort of question one spends a lot of time theorizing about. This is something you try. At the time the concept was to "burn through the short and keep on going." Okay, time to flip switches.

The Alpha did not like the 20:1 (plus or minus) SWR the shorted coax presented, but the amp would deliver around 500 watts into that load before the internal protection circuits tripped it off. So, I ran 500 watts, key down, into 100 feet of shorted RG8/X for a while to see what would happen. At the shack end nothing noticeable was going on. The amp was making 500 watts and humming along as Alphas do. A trip out back, crunching my way through the ice and snow, revealed a different story.

A six-inch circle of melted snow and ice was evident about 50 feet from the house. Steam was rising! I had found the short, or the Alpha 99 had found the short depending on how you view it.

At the site of the short were...teeth marks. A squirrel had bitten my brand new RG8/X after one night of successful operation of the BOG. It wasn't my imagination after all. The BOG did work well - for one night.

Lessons learned:

- BOGs work.
- Squirrels are trouble.
- Alphas, and vacuum tube manual-tune amps in general are capable of driving nearly anything. DON'T try driving a one-ohm load with a solids state amp!!!
- Doubt can sure cloud one's judgment!

73,

Hal N4GG ❖

A Word from the Editor

Clark WU4B

You have just read above the latest of Hal's *Around the Shack* that premiered in December 2017 (if my records are accurate). For over three years we have all benefited by Hal's experience in DXing as well as his willingness to share with the rest of it. I think I can say on behalf of the membership, "Thank you, Hal."

Hal's experience and skills as both a DXer/Contester and writer are very strong to be sure. But that doesn't mean that he is the only one in SEDXC with experience to share with the rest of us. This is where you come in. What could **you** share with the membership about something you have learned or recent DX activity at your QTH? It doesn't need to be long; it just needs to be related to DXing. Perhaps your story of how you became a DXer and your first contact? Or something you have accomplished this year in DXing—it doesn't need to be an ATNO! Or maybe a funny story like a squirrely BOG.

No one of us is smarter than all of us in this fascinating hobby. You have something to share that will benefit at least one other member. Time to get your pencil to paper and email to me for a future issue of the *Bulletin*. You'll be glad you did!

73 es gud DX,

Clark WU4B ♦



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

May 1996

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, May 21st, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL, President

We probably are luckier than we know. We complain about the lack of sunspots, lousy conditions, antenna troubles. It could be worse. I had the good fortune to spend an evening with Alexander Klink, UA3IHY. He was here on business and had a permit from the Ministry Of Communications in Moscow to buy a specified radio. We shared a malt beverage and dinner, and we talked about life, living and hamming in our respective countries.

Things in Russia aren't as bad today as they were a decade or so ago, when you were investigated by the KGB for requesting an amateur radio license. However, hams in Russia still have to have permission to buy radios, with a certain specificity. He has built his own equipment so far. He has, from the sound of it, a rather nice homebrew transceiver. He's always lived in an apartment; they don't have mortgages in Russia.

When I asked if it was hard to get permission to install an antenna at his apartment, he smiled in a way that made me feel foolish. He made me feel like a big gun when he took a picture of my modest little 41' crank-up tower. He's never had anything but a bit of wire, it seemed. He didn't believe a beverage really worked until I showed him how much it improved LX1NO's signal on 80 meters (the propagation smiled on me this evening, I actually heard something through my antennas). What really stunned him was the packetcluster. He'd heard the word before.

My logging program and radio interface got his attention, too. He has internet access, so I showed him how to sign on to the DX and Contest reflectors. We tested his radio and played with mine late into the evening. I took him back to his motel; we shook hands

and promised to stay in touch on the internet. I wonder now if he thinks I'm a spoiled capitalist. Does he, perhaps, feel wistful at the opportunities here in the USA which are not available in his country? He opened my eyes to those opportunities, and I'm grateful. He also turned me into a technician. You may find it hard to believe, but it's true. I actually provided some significant help to him in the process of turning a Kenwood into a Yaesu.

After taking Alexander home it was quite late, about 0630z. I took a spin though the 80 meter band, then started tuning up through the 40 meter band. Around 7009, I heard a 559 signal sending at about 15 wpm with a relatively lengthy exchange. You guessed it, VK0WH on at an unpublished hour. I actually had a couple legitimate shots at him, missed when he went QRT. Did I say we're luckier than we thought? Warren's getting more active and all's right with the world in America. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting, which is right after Dayton. I'm sure there will be some interesting information and updates for DX, so it should be a good time.

73, Steve, KR4DL

FROM THE VP

-Sonny Marsh, KE4LDJ, VP

Hello everyone. One of our new members, Keith Hylton, KE4TRG, will be our speaker for the next meeting. Keith is the ARRL technical specialist for the Georgia Region and will give a very informative presentation on the ARRL's technical information section. Antennas, tower restrictions, and RF interference will be discussed. Please bring your questions to the meeting and they will be addressed.

Keith has been working with me to help solve my interference problems. He has thoroughly impressed me with his knowledge (*continued p2*)

(continued from p1) and professionalism every step of the way. Please try to be at this meeting. I'm sure there will be something of interest for both the "old hands" and those with limited experience.

-73, Sonny, KE4LDJ

MINUTES, SEDXC MEETING 4/16/96

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT

Meeting Minutes - April 16, 1996

KR4DL asked me to take minutes at the last meeting. When I looked at my notepad at the end of the meeting, it still said "To order, 7:35 PM." Thus, a brief summary: KR4DL presiding, all officers except Buddy, W4OUN present.

KR4UJ reported that the membership roster had been completed and would be distributed next month. KR4DL appealed for help with the arrangements and the execution of the hospitality suite at Dayton. Announced that N4HOH needed some help removing a 100 foot tower by end of month, tower awarded to the person(s) doing the work. This was also put out on the DXCluster and mentioned during drive time on 195. Announced that donations would be accepted until the end of the month for the upcoming Kermadec expedition.

K2UFT announced the fantastic array of forums that Delaine, KM4FV has put together for the June 8 - 9 Atlanta HamFestival: Al Hernandez, WA3YVN - Kermadecs Bill Wall, KC4UZ - Antennas Jim Stafford, W4QO - QRP John Talipsky, KI4Y - Packet Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR - ARRL Bill Moore - DXCC Dave Shiplett - SE Repeater Association Mike Greenway, K4PI - EMI Power Line Noise Tracking Howie Gould, W4NVF - Beginners in Ham Radio Jeff Callahan, WB4UIE - MARS Bill Fisher, KM9P - Internet After a rather sparse 50-50 drawing, Nancy NK4U gave us a review of QSLing techniques using transparencies provided by NT5C. Meeting adjourned 9:30 PM.

K2UFT, Secretary Pro Tem

BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

Not much activities to crow about - seems like the sunspot cycle has cramped my style considerably. Looks like the only way I'm going to get JX7DFA is to invest in some RTTY equipment, although AA5AU is in FAX touch with Per and has forwarded our requests for some CW action.

Told N4XMX that I needed some inspiration so he suggested crowing about my loop antenna, talking about some of my CW adventures or how to follow the propagation when changing bands. As to the loop, its 260 feet around, more or less in a square, fed with 450 ohm feeders, up about 40 feet. It requires no rotators, no towers (assuming your trees are in the right place), is low-maintenance (replace the support ropes now and then), and works well on 160 thru 10.

As to performance, its gotten me 318 countries, all but 4 with 100 watts or less, and with the exception of Iran, without a microphone. As to relative performance, an illustration: Several weeks ago VK9NS showed up on 80 CW, I was there when he called CQ. N4AR worked him first (I assume 1500 watts and elaborate antenna) - I worked him second with 400 watts and the loop. If you've got patience and the op on the other end knows what he's doing, if you hear them you'll work them, the louder they are the easier it is for you.

As to CW adventures, a misadventure comes to mind. As soon as we got authorization to sign K200UFT, I got on 40 CW and was having a ball giving out QSOs until some sad sack who either took umbrance to my having fun or perhaps had someone else take the extra exam for him, decided he would drive me to distraction. He was pretty loud and had the uncanny ability to place his signal right in the pass-band I was listening in, no matter what adjustments I made - after several courses of him sending K2??... or "WHAT ARE YOU" and almost getting his call out - N5??? I just did the gentlemanly thing and pushed the off button.

Even better is the interloper that sends "HI" at the end, sometimes in the middle of a lengthy QSO I've had on CW with someone - this has happened to me many times on 40 CW - the only thing that ever comes from the interloper is "HI." Why on earth would any one spend an hour (continued on p3)

(continued from p2) or two listening to a conversation, never joining in and never identifying themselves. Are there Ham Voyeurs out there in the ether? These are imponderables, they defy my version of reason.

As to when to change bands, follow the propagation? This is starting my 4th sunspot cycle, somehow its just automatic!

73 Dick K200UFT

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 3/31/96 (Checkbook)	<u>\$2049.61</u>
Income:	<u>\$656.00</u>
Expenses:	
QSL buro and stamps for 160 plaques	11.09
Newsletter	90.06
Bank Charges (2 months)	20.00

Balance Checking 3/31/96	<u>\$2584.46</u>
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Of this balance, the following is included
Packet Cluster Account \$1012.10 Kermadec Is
DXpedition 55.00 (will be match by general treasury
for total of 110.00) 160 CQWW Plaque Account
640.00 This leaves the actual treasury balance of
\$822.36. Our fiscal year ends on June 30th of each
year so dues are due.

We (KR4UJ) is creating a comprehensive data
base and would also like to have additional informa-
tion not necessarily requested on the membership
form, e.g., fax number, WWW path, etc., etc., etc.
Also it's important to fill out the ARRL membership
info, we need that for our Special Services Club status.

See you at the May meeting.

73, Nancy NK4U Treasurer

DX TIDBITS

-Rick, N4XMX

Another short column! I love these. Kermadec!
An all time new one. Good ops, reasonable propaga-
tion, not bad! Worked hard on 15 SSB for the first
QSO, then saw a spot for 17 SSB, hit a good 5 KHz
split, made a quick call at 100w while the amp was
warming up. One call! Works for me...

-CU in the pileups... Rick, N4XMX

HAMFEST FORUMS

-Delaine McCarty

FORUMS FOR THE 1996 ATLANTA HAMFEST
Saturday only
ROOM I

9:30 John Talipsky - KI4Y Packet Radio
10:30 Bill Fisher - KM9P Internet for Contest-
ing and DXing

11:30 Bob Allphin - K4UEE/KP0Y Easter
Island DXpedition

1:00 Al Hernandez - WA3YVN/KL8
Kermadec Island DXpedition

2:00 Jeff Callahan - WB4UIE M.A.R.S.

ROOM II

9:30 Jim Stafford - W4QO Fun with QRP

10:30 Howie Gould - W4NVF Beginners in
Ham Radio

11:30 Dave Shiplett - AC4MU Southeastern
Repeater Association

1:00 Jack Hill - W4PPT Boat Anchor Mail List
- Internet

2:00 Bill Wall - KC4UZ Antennas

ROOM III

9:30 Larry Keith - KQ4BY Bring Back the
'57 Chevys of Ham Radio

10:30 Mike Greenway - K4PI EMI-Power
Line Noise Tracking

11:30 Evelyn Gauzens - W4WYR Vice-Director,
S.E. Division, ARRL

1:00 Gary Harrison - WA0RWS National Vice
Pres. of Q.C.W.A.

2:00 Bill Moore - NC1L DXCC Desk ARRL