



Bulletin



May 2022

Founded In 1958

Our Next Meeting & Speaker

Date & Time: Thursday, May 19, 2022, **8:30 PM**

Location: **Via Zoom (see special instructions below!)**

Theme: ***What I Think I've Learned About DXing with FT8 (Maybe)***
Mike Flowers, K6MKF



Note: This is a **different** time and Zoom log-in than our regular SEDXC monthly meetings. We are joining the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) as their guests. They have graciously moved their meeting time up one hour to accommodate us in the East. The Zoom meeting will be enabled at 8:00 PM EDT with the presentation beginning at 8:30 PM. Please use the Zoom link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84348868315?pwd=L2xZaUtEQjgwM1hGWDFVcVVFFeDBXUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 4886 8315

Passcode: 074206

Mike K6MKF is past President and current Vice President of Northern California DX Club (NCDXC). He is a veteran DXer who received the NCDXC 2013 DXer of the Year award. In 2012, Mike was a participating member of the 3D2C Conway Reef team that logged 71,693 QSOs with Amateurs around the world.

Mike was first licensed in 1981 and, therefore, has a lot in common with many SEDXC members. Check out his webpage on www.qrz.com/db/K6MKF for a pictorial history of his life as a ham first licensed in the East and now in the West.

From the Prez *(de Chuck Catledge, AE4CW)*



It's Dayton time! Thankfully, the annual pilgrimage is back in operation, now located in Xenia, OH, of course. And some of our members are making the trek once again. While at the club BBQ recently, I learned that our resident grilling chef Paul, W4KLY, is one of the lucky ones, along with ND4V, WA4ZXV, W6IZT and K4NHW. If you are planning to go, how about posting a shout out on SEDXC@Groups.io. We'd love to have some real-time reporting sent to us who are staying home! In addition to the exhibits, some of my favorites are Four Days in May (the QRP ARCI gathering) and Contest University. Both offer outstanding speakers (AKA professors), and attract hundreds of hams seeking to learn from the experts while enjoying the comradery.

IMPORTANT: As noted above, our May meeting will begin at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday May 19th. We are having a joint meeting with the Northern California DX Club. Please see Clark's article above for details on the speaker, the presentation and Zoom credentials. We anticipate this will be very interesting and worthwhile for our members.

Last month's presentation on Club Log enticed me to take a harder look at the information that Club Log has about our club. It's quite amazing how much can be gleaned with a few clicks. Here is an example:

- 1) 82 of our approximately 220 members are participants in Club Log.
- 2) 73 of those members have worked a DXCC entity in 2022.
- 3) 55 of those members have worked 50 or more entities in 2022.
- 4) 30 of those members have worked 100 or more entities in 2022.
- 5) 7 of those members have worked 150 or more entities in 2022.
- 6) And 3 of those members have worked 200 or more entities in 2022!

What a wonderful opportunity the data reveals! With the rapid improvement in propagation we are seeing right now, lots of DX awaits our call!! Another takeaway is that with the strong member activity we've seen in just over four months into 2022, the SEDXC could be very competitive in the CQ DX Marathon this year. If you are an active operator and not a Club Log participant, we encourage you to consider participating. Just go to this link and sign up; it's free, and many of the common logging programs our members use have a interface to Club Log:

<https://clublog.org/loginform.php>

Another important club event: At the June meeting, the members present will be electing a slate of officers for the next fiscal year beginning in July. A nominating committee composed of N4TOL, ND4V and W4KLY has been hard at work identifying

candidates to fill each of the five elected officer positions. Please be sure to review the nominating committee's recommendations for these positions in their article below. Additional nominees may be entered from the floor by the membership present during the June meeting.

73 es gud DX,

Chuck, AE4CW

VP's Corner (de Clark Macaulay, WU4B)

"The Woods Is Full of Them"



There is a story about a group of young soldiers who – after days of searching for enemy itching for a fight and not finding any – started to grumble. An older soldier left the group and disappeared into the woods surrounding the camp. A few hours later, he returned with several enemy soldiers with hands tied behind them and

marching in single file in front of the older soldier, who was keeping his gun focused on them. When they came into the camp, several of the younger soldiers yelled out "Hey! Where did you get the fellas?" The older soldier simply replied "The woods is full of them; go out there and get some for yourself!"

I see an application of this story to the DXers of today. I started my DXing adventure about 15 years ago, with a focus on CW. About four years ago, I completed Level II of CWOps Academy to improve my "head copying" ability. My K3 is programmed for all the CW segments that have been my 'woods' for chasing DX (now 300 confirmed, CW only).

But today, there are different 'woods' for the DXer: the FT8 band segments. Today, if I want to work DX on CW, I have to wait for contests (usually weekends) or be satisfied with the few CW ops to be found on a weekday. At least that has been my experience for the last few years.

Some in our club have written articles on FT8 (N4GG) or given a presentation on DXing today that included the role of FT8 in DXing (K4PI). I find FT8 fascinating for its ability to decode signals well below my ability to hear a similar CW signal. While FT8 is simple to set up and make contacts, there are nuances in operation that I am looking to learn from those who have seen value in using FT8 in DXing. Our speaker this month, Mike K6MKF, is one like us who has started to go into 'different woods' to

find DX. I hope you can join Mike at our meeting this month when we join NCDXC in their meeting to learn from him. **Note:** the time and Zoom log-on instructions for the meeting are **different** from our normal Thursday meetings and can be found in the *Our Next Meeting & Speaker* article above, or at our website, www.sedxc.org.

73 es gud DX,

Clark, WU4B

Treasurer's Journal (de Jeff Cantor, K1ZN)



Greetings, Fellow DXers! Here are our disbursements to report this month:

Purpose	Amount
Donation Approved for the 3Y0J Bouvet DXpedition	\$4,000.00
Paul Kelley (W4KLY) for BBQ Food, etc.	\$462.42
Chaz Cone (W4GKF) for BBQ Beverages	\$141.14
Nifty Publications for <i>Adventures In DXing</i>	\$17.95
TOTAL:	\$4,621.51

Our Account Balance is \$11,246.23, as of May 12th.

Note: The *Adventures in DXing* book by Nifty Publications is for sale on the SEDXC Website Store and is provided to our new members.

Gud DX & 73,

Jeff, K1ZN

Around the Shack *(de Hal Kennedy, N4GG)*

The Elser-Mathes Cup



“Um, what’s an Elser-Mathes Cup and why haven’t I heard of it?”

That was my first reaction on encountering this most curious object. I thought I had hamdom’s sacred symbols figured out – the Wouff Hong, the Reddysnitch and even the seldom mentioned Uggerumph. I’ve been at this for 61 years. Can there be a corporal item I somehow missed?

A future *Around the Shack* column will shine light on our sacred symbols – the ones mentioned above. If those have escaped your notice, you can preempt my future writing by reading about them on various ARRL web pages. Everyone should at least know the Wouff Hong and understand the consequences of getting on the wrong end of one.

I got a kick out of Saturday Night Live not long ago; Elon Musk was the guest host. Michael Che asked him six-ways-to-Sunday what Dogecoin was. Every serious answer Musk gave was met with: Yeah, but what *IS* it? “It’s a crypto-currency based on unbreakable algorithms.” Yeah man, but what *IS* it? Having run out of technical answers, Musk finally admitted Dogecoin was, in his words, “a hustle.” Ah - an insight into crypto-currency from someone who knows it well. You thought crypto-currency was a block-chain whatchamacallit, but Michael Che teased out the correct answer. It’s a hustle. I think that’s good to know.

Okay, I had the same question about the Elser-Mathes Cup: What *IS* it? I do know it’s a carved wooden statue of two bald naked men holding up a bowl with one hand - the other placed on the head of a sitting child. I know that much. But what *IS* it? It dates to 1929 and a guy named Elser is responsible, but that doesn’t help with knowing what it is. It’s not fictional – it’s real. It’s depressing to note The Cup has been knocking around the W1AW station for 93 years. Much as I like the place, I would not want to spend 93 years at W1AW.

Back in the day (pre-1929ish), award after award had been offered for advances in “wireless.” The term “radio” became a thing around 1920, but everyone including hams were slow to adopt “radio” and kept calling what they did “wireless”, to distinguish it from the wire-line telegraph. As fast as awards were dreamt up, records were broken. DXing was off and running. So was contesting. How fast could you relay a message across the US and back? There was an award for that. It was won and that begat a more challenging award. That award was won and that begat

another. You get the picture. Radio technology was moving fast in the teens and 20s and hams were in the thick of it.

As an aside, the relayed messages had actual content. They were not *599 over*. Also, given that the transmitters were spark, the correct signal report would have been 592, not 599. That is if the RST system had existed, which it didn't. RST came along in 1936. [Look at all the great information in this column!]

Few of us seem to have considered the ARRL acronym. It's the American, Radio, *Relay League*. It describes what the organization was organizing (um, a relay league) in the days when spark rigs had a range of no more than 500 miles. Relaying was a necessity. There was lots of rivalry around winning the awards and contests for how fast and how far you could relay a message.

So, back to the question at hand – what *IS* that bowl the bald men are holding up? Why, it's the Elser-Mathes Cup! Yes, but what *IS* it?

At the time the cup came into being, Elser was a resident of Manila (the Philippines, not one of the twelve US states that have thirteen towns named Manila; Alabama has two). As the story goes, Elser became friends with one Stanley Mathes, a Navy Lieutenant Commander who was stationed in the Philippines. If you have spent time outside the US you know ex-pats find and befriend each other.

Elser and Mathes were hams although their callsigns do not appear in historical accounts.¹ In conversation they discovered mutual discouragement over the sad state of affairs befalling ham radio awards and challenges. Everything had been won. Regulations were beginning to hamper further advancement. A new award seemed to be in order – one that would be hard to win.

At this point in the story, I'd like to introduce a question. Ex-pats are known for bonding in the company of adult beverages. The Philippine Islands have great beer. San Miguel (a light Pilsner, the original pale Pilsner being from the Czech Republic, circa 1842) was the beer of choice in 1929, as it is now. What role did San Miguel play in the creation of the Elser-Mathes cup? Alas we will never know the answer to this important question.

Elser was well traveled. He met Hiram Percy Maxim, "HPM," (that was the actual name of a real person, no kidding) in Hartford, sometime prior to 1929. HPM related his keen interest in the planet Mars –he even possessed a globe of the planet. HPM's Mars-interest left an impression on Elser. It became a topic of conversation with Mathes, perhaps over a few San Miguels.

What is the question to which the answer is: "A major award?" If you've been paying attention you know it's not a leg-lamp, it's the Elser-Mathes Cup! That *IS* what it *IS*.

Elser and Mathes were clever. They created an award that was REALLY HARD to win. Something that would gather dust at W1AW for over 90 years (okay, I made that up).

The cup is still available and yours for the taking. The rules are simple. Complete a two-way QSO with someone on Mars and it's yours. The first Earth-Mars QSO wins. The rules require a ham on both ends.

Were Elser and Mathes prescient enough to foresee repeaters and interplanetary exploration via machine? Did they fathom technical improvements in radios and antennas could one day make Earth-Mars QSOs possible without a human on the Mars end? Did they see *Marsbounce* on the horizon? Intentionally or not, Elser and Mathes shut the door on non-human interplanetary machinery and on bouncing. You have to show up (on Mars). Did I mention the boys were tired of the award-a-week status quo and wanted an award that was *R-E-A-L-L-Y H-A-R-D* to win?

Regarding bounce, hams have already accomplished EME (moon) and EVE (Venus). EME (Earth-Mars-Earth) can't be far off. There are two problems however. It won't count for the Elser-Mathes Cup without a ham on both ends and we need an unambiguous acronym.

Well, we have come full circle and it's time for Elon Musk to reenter. Like HPM, Mr. Musk has "a thing" about Mars. Unlike HPM however, he has the resources to do something about it. Musk predicts mankind will first set foot on Mars in 2029. Did he choose the year to coincide with the Elser-Mathes Cup's 100th birthday? If so, he isn't saying.

If Mr. Musk's Mars explorer is a ham (it's doubtful he will go himself) the cup may finally be excavated at W1AW and sent to some lucky soul. Or some unlucky soul, as the rules neither specify nor imply the Mars explorer will ever return. Which end of the QSO gets the award? The Earth end or the Mars end? If Mars, how much will postage be?

Pictured below is the Elser-Mathes Cup. How could any ham not wish to go to Mars, knowing this major award awaits their endeavors? It's not just any major award either. It's two bald naked men holding up a bowl with one hand, with the other on the head of a sitting child.

73,

Hal, N4GG



Figure 1: The Elser-Mathes Cup
(AKA “The Bald Men Holding a Bowl” Cup)

Suggested reading: QST, December, 2015; *The Past, Present, and Future of the Elser-Mathes Cup*.

¹ Neither Elser nor Mathes appear in my copy of *Radio Stations of the United States*, July, 1916. Also, HPM does not appear. In 1916, callsign 1AW was issued to someone named E. G. Ham (not a joke; not mine anyway).

Nominating Committee Report



Mr President,

The Nominating Committee proposes the following motion for consideration by the Club:

For President – Chuck Catledge

For Vice-President – Clark Macaulay

For Treasurer – Jeff Cantor

For Secretary – Joel Levine

For Activities Manager – Bob Hennessy

The individuals named above have agreed to serve in the July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 Club Year, if elected by the Membership.

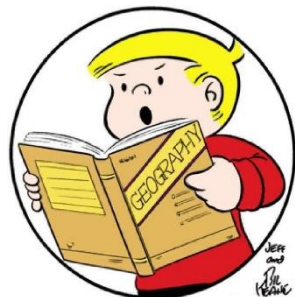
Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Paul Kelley, W4KLY

John Tramontanis, N4TOL

Mike Weathers, ND4V

25 Years Ago... (de Bob Sarnecki, NF7D)



"If it wasn't for ham radio, I would have never even heard of Kyrgyzstan, Brunei, Kiribati, Djibouti, Malta, Nauru, Azerbaijan, or Burkina Faso!"

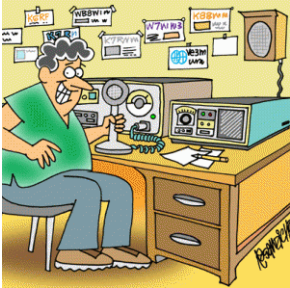
The May, 1997 Newsletter is attached for your entertainment. Then president Steve Schmidt (K4WA) shares some great DX experiences, but what I found myself thinking about was how he used the computer “way back in ‘97”. Back then, the computer was invaluable (as it is today) for DX spots and logging – Compare that to today, when we can QSL that All Time New One (ATNO) electronically, and we have entire *modes* based on digital communications between hams. If you’re sensing a “shameless plug” for this month’s speaker – Mike Flowers, K6MKF, presenting *What I’ve Learned About FT8 DXing (Maybe)* – you are right! This promises to be a great presentation, and the perfect opportunity to invite someone new to DXing to learn a mode that has been growing in popularity each year since it was introduced in 2017.

On a more serious note, Page 3 of the 1997 Newsletter includes a report by the 1997 Nominating Committee, who notes that SEDXC is “at a point in club history” where they were considering dissolving the Club. Fortunately, the SEDXC Club weathered a difficult time, and has emerged strong with over 220 members, and the ability to fund

DXpeditions on-par with many of the larger clubs in the United States today. Sometimes, it's OK to be grateful that "the past is the past"!

In the following pages, enjoy "all the news, fit to print" from the *SEDXC Bulletin*, 25 years ago!

SEDX Officers & Positions

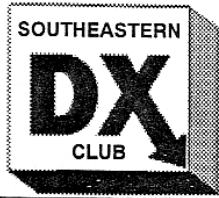


SEDXC Officers:

Chuck Catledge, AE4CW – President – c.catledge@gmail.com
Clark Macaulay, WU4B – Vice-President – macaulay@gmail.com
Paul Kelley, W4KLY – Secretary – w4kly@bellsouth.com
Jeffrey Cantor, K1ZN – Treasury – jacantor9@gmail.com
Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV – wa4zxv@arrl.net

SEDXC Appointed Positions:

Bob Sarnecki, NF7D – *Bulletin* Editor – bob.sarnecki@gmail.com
Bill Barr, N4NX – Membership Committee Chairman – n4nx@arr.net
Chaz Cone, W4GKF – Webmaster – w4gkf@chazcone.com



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

May 1997

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, May 20th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Steve Schmidt, K4WA, President

It was Monday night and I finally had my chores done. About ten o'clock local; I had a little time to look around the bands before going to bed. I started at the bottom of the 30 meter band and tuned slowly up. At 10105.4 I heard a signal that sounded like DX..about 559, with a nice fist, calling CQ. There, he signed..hey, it's Jacky, 3B8CF! Nice signal from Mauritius tonight. Jacky confirmed my first 3B8 on 30 meters. I posted it to the Mega cluster and tuned on. There, at 10109.7, a weak signal with a trace of polar flutter. RW6AW, in QSO with a W2. Nothing new there..I tuned on. The Mega cluster posts kept setting off the DX Base alarm, mostly with Europeans spotting things on 15 and 17 meters I couldn't possibly hear. At 10112.5, I found WL7VO, not rare, but a new one for me on 30 meters. I worked him and debated going to 40 or 20 meters. Some thunderstorms in the area were making noise on 30; I could only imagine 40 would be worse. I switched to 20 and started at the bottom. Lots of EUs and some Russian prefixes with polar flutter, but nothing rare. I decided to go to bed and hope for a good morning before I had to leave for work.

A couple years ago, I had some fairly productive times tuning through the bands and posting new spots. I remember one time, after work, I had a wild run of reasonably good DX, posting almost 30 spots (good ones, too; no garden variety Europeans) in 40 minutes on 17, 20 and 30 meters. Found my first A6 that afternoon, high in the Phone portion of the 20 meter band. Posted some other goodies, too, like an OX3 on 20 CW, and a 3A on 30 meters. It was nice getting talk messages from guys saying "thanks for the spot; that was a new one for me" and "nice spots." Near the end of my torrid run, one fellow in Tennessee

sent, "Quick, check ur tower, ur rotors on fire!" It's been a long time since I could find that kind of DX on the bands. The Mega cluster seems to stifle some of my creativity, too. With so many spots flying by, it's hard to believe you can actually be the first one to spot something. Maybe the morning will prove me wrong.

I woke up late, but still managed to start some coffee on my way downstairs to the shack. I flipped on the radio, the amp and the cluster. Hmm..BS7H/MM working away on 14024.0..I tune there to see how strong his signal is. Pretty good; this trip may just give me that new one I've been missing for a while! I try to work him, distracted a bit by the coffee and my fumbling attempts to find something for breakfast. The DX Base alarm is going off again. Hey, it's a 9V, one I need for a new one! I tune down to 14009.5, where he was spotted. Someone's calling the 9V with a loud signal, but there's no response. I listen a little longer; the caller tries again, but you can almost hear the pessimism in his fist. After a minute, we both give up. I tune back up to the BS7H/MM frequency and try to figure out the guy's pattern. It's not easy; he seems to be moving his listening frequency around in a random fashion. The DX Base alarm is going off again, but I ignore it, lulled to sleep by the spots I surely can't hear.

I'm not getting anywhere with the BS7..I finally look over at the computer screen to see what I may have missed. Hey! V85YC..it's Brunei! Another one I need. I spin the dial over to 14012.0 in a panic. Man, he's been spotted twice! I hear him right away, just catching him in a lull between callers. He has a decent signal; he's workable. He works one, and then quite a few people start calling him. It's going to be tough. I eye the clock nervously; only fifteen minutes left before I have to leave for work. I join the fray, sending my call three times because of the size and duration of the pile. I listen..he's already coming back to somebody else. When he signs, I listen for a second and send my call twice. Nope, came back to someone else again. Loud signals, too. These guys must all be running the legal limit. I keep trying, (continued p2)

SEDXC MINUTES 3/97

-Randy Tudor, K4ODL, Sec.

The meeting was called to order by K4WA Steve. Introductions were made and the guest list was passed for everyone to sign. Minutes approved from the last meeting. Steve ask if anyone has worked any thing good? ZL9 was worked.

Old business - The new SEDX badges are here. See Nancy to get your badge. The cost is \$6.50. If you still need a new badge they can be ordered from the Cap and Badge Man. Paul - K4UJ gave an update on the Megacluster. Don't forget - we will have a booth at the Atlanta Hamfest June 21 and 22. We need to have some people to work the booth. The ARRL will have a rep there to check cards. The Atlanta HamFestival will be at the City Hall East Exhibition Center (the old Sears building on Ponce de Leon). Check out their web site <http://www.saf.com/arc>.

New business - Ben W3BZ will be selling all of his ham equipment. Please give Ben a call for details.

We still need a few people to work on the committee for the slate of officers for next year. Please let Steve know if you would like to help. We currently have two.

Steve ask if anyone was willing to help in Dayton this year with the Hospitality room? We did not get much help last year and the Club lost money. We still have some of the "Drinks" left from last year that could be used if we want to work with the K.C. club. If you are going to Dayton please try to help out on Friday night. See Steve to schedule some time to help.

Announcements - BS7H April 30 for one week FT5ZG Feb. - Nov. 97 3C0? May 20 - 27 7O? May for one year KH7K/N2NB May 17-23 Maybe

Program - We had an excellent program on VK0IR by K4UEE. Thanks to Bob for sharing the video. This was one of the very best programs ever. If you would like a copy of the Official Expedition Video please order from K7BV - cost \$25.00 plus \$3.00 postage.

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 3/31/97 (Checkbook)	\$1595.77
Income:	\$685.00
Expenses:	
Bank Charges	10.00
April Newsletter	60.48
Door Prizes	40.96
Balance Checking 4/30/97	\$2169.33**

Dues are due next month. Enclosed you will find a new membership application which is just a little different. Please take time to fill it out so we can update our roster. I have assumed the membership duties, so if there are any changes during the year, please send them to me via the mail, P.O. Box, or E-Mail. My antennas are still down so hold the packet cluster messages for a while.

Hope all who traveled north to mecca had a great time and brought back some good stories. I'm really jealous because I had to skip this year because of my second mortgage payment (in the form of a new car) but I'll be back next year.

Hope to see all at the May meeting. For those who missed last month, you missed a really great personal presentation on Heard Island. Hope everyone got their QSL with the SEDXC logo prominently displayed.

73, Nancy NK4U Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report

Mike Greenway, K4PI Dick Bentley, K2UFT

We were appointed by President Steve Schmidt, K4WA, to secure candidates for the various club offices for the coming year. We were delighted to have K4ODL, NK4U and K2UFT volunteer to continue in their roles as Secretary, Treasurer and Activities Manager, respectively. We considered the membership role carefully as to those individuals we thought could do the job as President and Vice President and offered the positions accordingly. Without exception, we have received negative responses from all whom we asked.

It would seem to us that we are at point in the history of the SEDXC where we are forced to take one of three paths: dissolve the club, continue to have monthly meetings as we always have with the continuing officers rotating responsibilities, or we could continue to meet as an „eating% club with discussions and eyeball QSOs during and after dinner with an occasional program as the spirit moves the crowd.

Mike and I are in favor of the third alternative with the idea of allowing the club to coast for a year or so, in the hope that what we really need is some sunspots to revitalize the club.

The Constitution provides that the existing officers will continue in their roles until a succeeding slate is elected. Steve, K4WA and Paul, K4UJ have made it clear that they do not want to continue in an official capacity (other than member). To let them off the hook and not force them to get themselves off by resigning, we suggest suspension of that portion of the Constitution for one year.

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BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

For those of you not subscribed to the DX Reflector, here's Carl Henson's response to those who seemed to be questioning his motives with regard to the disallowance of the most recent 7 Oscar operation: Date: Fri, 11 Apr 1997 16:08:40 -0700 From: "Carl D. Henson" <wb4znh@voyager.net> Subject: [DX] Yemen I do not currently subscribe to the DX reflector, so any responses to this should be directed to me.

I was advised recently that my name and call has been bandied about in regard to the DXCC decision to not count Zorro's and Franz's recent DXpedition to Yemen. In the interest of fairness to K5FUV, I feel it necessary to explain my involvement.

When Zorro and Franz came on from Yemen, it was announced that they would be on for approximately 4 days. Well, I have been trying for a 70 license for quite some time, and as many of you know I travelled to the capitol, Sana'a in the fall of 1995, in that pursuit. Martha and I could stay for two or three weeks and I knew that even as good operators as Zorro and Franz are, they could not do enough in 4 days to keep me from having a LOT of fun.

During our visit to Yemen, we became acquainted with and became friends with Eng. Abdel Gader Ibrahim, the Director General of Telecommunications. Mr. Ibrahim very kindly promised that if the licensing situation ever changed that he would notify us, so we could return and operate from Sana'a. When

Zorro and Franz came on from Yemen, I was sure that they had somehow "broken the code" and had made it past the barrier that Martha and I found. So naturally, I telephoned Mr. Ibrahim and though I cannot remember the exact words I used, I essentially said, "Well, now that amateur radio has been allowed in Yemen, Martha and I would like to come and operate." Mr. Ibrahim responded without hesitation that nothing had changed since my visit and that if I was hearing amateurs from Yemen, that they were operating illegally. I dropped the subject and said good-bye, giving no details of who or where they were operating for fear that doing so might endanger their lives or at least their freedom.

I contacted K5FUV and gave him the details of our conversation. Bill asked me to make some more inquiries of Mr. Ibrahim and we decided that we would wait until Zorro and Franz were out of the country. When we knew that they had gone home, I phoned Mr. Ibrahim again and we had a long conversation about the situation, with Mr. Ibrahim indicating that he would do some investigating on his end to see who might have authorized such an operation. Since this was a matter for the DXCC desk to decide, not me, I e-mailed all the information that I had including Mr. Ibrahim's telephone numbers to K5FUV.

Incidentally, Mr. Ibrahim is interested in becoming an amateur when amateur radio is permitted in his country. 73, Carl, wb4znh/8

You missed a great show if you didn't attend the April meeting. After quickly moving through the business portion of the meeting, and bowing to the wishes of those in the crowd shouting "PENGUINS, PENGUINS!", K4WA turned the floor over to Bob, K4UEE. Bob presented the A#1 first class video showcasing all the aspects of the VK0IR operation, threw in a few slides of his own, and then distributed a few bags of sand to some of the deserving in our midst. I realize now that I should have scrapped the story about trying to help K4UJ nail VK0IR in favor of the "my mother-in-law collects sand" gambit. Win some, lose lots!

We're still looking for Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates for the upcoming year. If you would like to take your turn at bat, or know of someone who should, contact K4PI or K2UFT.

Don't forget: May 10: ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprint 902, 1296, 2304 Mhz May 10-11: Nevada QSO Party May 17-18: ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprint 50 Mhz May 17 - Armed Forces Day, - EU Spring Sprint CW May 24-25: CQWW WPX CW June 21-22: Atlanta HamFestival (get your QSLs checked by NC1L)