



# Bulletin



May 2024

Founded In 1958

## Our Next Meeting & Speaker

**Date & Time:** May 16, 2024  
**Location:** Zoom meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 PM  
**Speaker:** All are welcome  
**Topic:** Open Discussion



### From the Prez *(de John Tramontanis, N4TOL)*

The Atlanta Hamfest 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Jim Miller Park in Marietta. It has been a while since this event has taken place, and the organizers are making an effort to revive this hamfest. I encourage all to get out and support them to help make this event a success. It will be great opportunity to see our fellow members in person. Hope to see you there.

<https://www.atlantaradioclub.org/atlanta-hamfestival.html>



Propagation and band conditions continue to be favorable and bustling with DX. April was a productive month with several DXpeditions on the bands. This was certainly an opportunity for folks to grab an ATNO and/or some needed band fills. Active entities were: Austral Islands, Bhutan, Chad, Conway Reef, Easter Island, Market Reef, Nauru, and Niue.

There will be a lot of attention at the end of this month, as Glorioso Island is scheduled to be activated May 24th - June 19th. Glorioso is ranked the #4 entity in North America on the Clublog most wanted list. Enough said. <https://ft4gl.blogspot.com/>



**Congratulations to club member Joe Spear, W4WT, who picked up #331 for the “DXCC Honor Roll” in April.** Joe worked Macau, XX9ET, on 15 meters to achieve this significant milestone. Well done OM!!!



Joe Spear - W4WT



May Zoom meeting, on Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 PM. Due to conflicts with the Dayton Hamvention, we will not have a formal presentation for May, but will conduct a general roundtable discussion, some club business and a how’s DX chat. I look forward to seeing you all then. Here is the link for joining the Zoom event:

<https://www.sedxc.org/sedxc/zoom/index.htm>

73 John N4TOL



## [SEDXC Elmers Link](#)

### **VP's Corner de K4NHW**



*(de Nathan Wood, K4NHW)*

If you missed April's presentation, you really missed a treat! Our guest speaker was the 3-time World Series Champion, Joe Rudi, NK7U. Joe talked about his award winning contest station in Oregon, Major League Baseball and everything in between. He took several questions from the attendees. We even heard the story about Joe operating HF in between MLB baseball games with a wire off the balcony. If you missed the presentation, check it out at [sedxc.com/zoom](https://sedxc.com/zoom)

### **Presentations**

This month's club meeting will look a little different! With many of the club members in Dayton that weekend, May's meeting will be an unmoderated open floor for members to get together to socialize! For those staying local, feel free to plan dinner with members that you haven't seen in person in a while or login to Zoom and tell about the ATNO's that you have worked recently. You may even find our new Treasurer in the process!

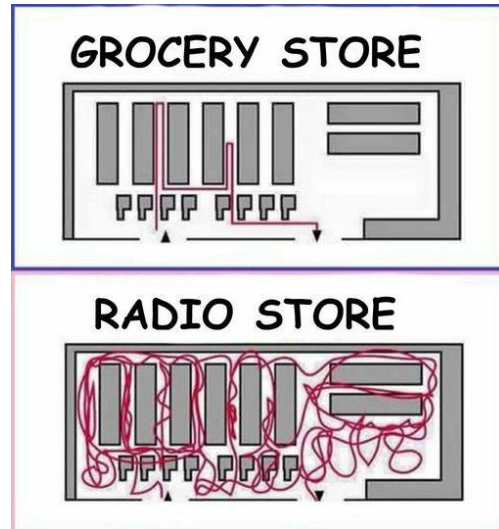
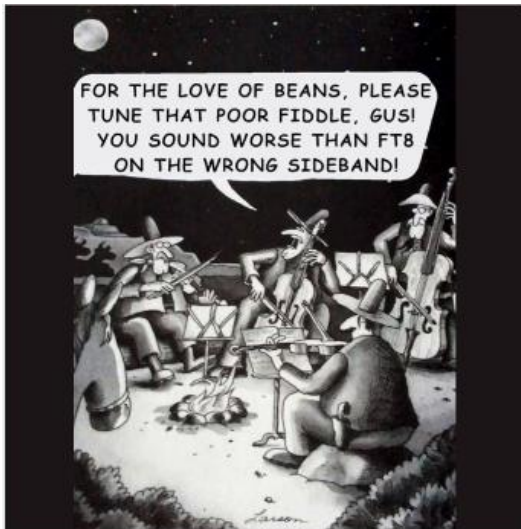
Looking ahead into June, the SEDXC will be hosting Hal Turley, W8HC. He will be speaking of his recent DXpedition to Robinson Crusoe Island (Juan Fernandez). Hal was a member of the international team that activated the DXCC entity, National Park and an IOTA in mid-February. They even participated in the ARRL CW contest. The NexGen RIB that was designed by Gregg, W6IZT, was deployed on this DXpedition. The 7 on-site operators and 30 remote operators (via Starlink) made an amazing number of contacts! I can't wait to hear all about this trip... INCLUDING a homebrewed vertical antenna that was made from available resources from the island.

For the gathering of the willing in May, the zoom credentials can be found at the top of the front page of [sedxc.com](https://sedxc.com).



# May Humor

De Neil Foster – N4FN





## Treasurer's Journal *(de Jeff Cantor, K1ZN)*

Greetings, Fellow DXers!

### TREASURER's Report – May 2024

#### TREASURER's Report – May 2024

- Checkbook Balance on May 1st: \$12,745.23
- Payments Made, month of April 2024
  - o CY9 DXPedition - \$500.
  - o New member package - \$5.27

73s & GUD DX,

Jeff / K1ZN, (outgoing) Treasurer

## Around The Shack *(de Hal Kennedy N4GG)*



By Hal Kennedy N4GG

### PL-259s Redux

#### Doing it right – Max-Gain Systems

This is the 72<sup>nd</sup> *Around the Shack* column. The first column appeared in December, 2017. A few of the columns stand out. The February, 2019 column titled “Mystery UHF Connectors” is one of those – it has received more interest than any other. That's understandable – every ham handles PL-259s.

*Around the Shack* is currently carried in three newsletters. The first 36 columns – significantly rewritten - also appear in a book: *Ham Radio Tips and Tales*. Over time, the feedback I've received indicates a wider readership than I would have expected. In addition to comments received directly, parts of the mystery UHF connector column were picked up by the ARRL and incorpo-

rated into the ARRL Handbook and the ARRL Antenna Book.

In 2019 my recommendation for UHF connectors was simple: “Amphenol or not at all.” That's an old-timer's saying; I first heard it during my novice days in the 1960s. The column did, however, mention two excellent alternatives to Amphenol. Those are Max-Gain Systems (MGS) of Marietta, GA and The RF Connection in Gaithersburg, MD.

Both Amphenol alternatives are family-owned businesses where the owners have decided to offer high-quality products at a fair price. Both companies sell connectors manufactured for them to their own specifications.

By intent, MGS took the ultimate step – they designed their UHF connectors to be



Figure 1. An MGS PL-259

as good as they possibly could be. Cost was secondary - quality and performance came first.

In my humble opinion, the MGS PL-259 is the best available today and, somehow, it's sold for \$2.25 in quantities of one. Well done MGS.



<https://mgs4u.com/>

Figure 2

MGS PL-259

PL-259s for sale at the Orlando Hamcation.

What makes MGS PL-259s so special? Here are the design requirements MGS used:

- The part must be as good as it can possibly be.
- The part has to be fully specified, no “mystery” is allowed.
- The mechanical dimensions have to be true to the definitions covering UHF connectors and the tolerances have to be tight. Some customers use these connectors in a production environment – the product has to be consistent from buy to buy, batch to batch and year to year.

- The part has to be easily soldered without the use of flux.
- The center insulator and center pin have to withstand abuse, including blow-torch temperatures during assembly. The insulator can't allow the center pin to migrate under any circumstances.
- The center pin ID has to accept the center conductor of LMR-400 and 3/8" Heliax.
- The part has to have a breakdown voltage as least as good as the best connector in the market.

Max-Gain Systems SO-239



Figure 3. An MGS SO-239 with 16 cuts. Inferior connectors have 4 cuts.

- Design criteria for the mating SO-239 must match those of the PL-259. The flange has to be "16V." See Figure 1. Cheap SO-239s are usually "4V."
- The part has to be affordable – but that's last on the list after everything else is accomplished.

A connector is no better than the company that makes, sells and supports it. Here are MGS's support practices:

- All UHF connectors are fully supported. You can call MGS (on the telephone!) and someone will answer. That person can discuss the parts in detail, spec by spec.
- The parts are available. Sufficient inventory is kept to fill large orders.
- Incoming parts are inspected and incoming lots are rejected if need be. This doesn't happen with \$1 "mystery connectors." \$1 connectors can't be inspected – there are no specifications to inspect them to.
- Full documentation is available to customers on the internet, including engineering drawings and installation guides.

How well does MGS meet their goals, both for the part and for themselves as a company?

- All connectors are silver plated with jewelry-quality silver. This insures solderability without the use of flux. All the components are plated, for example the nut, the body and the pin of a PL-259. No gold is used. Gold has less conductivity than silver – it is strictly a marketing gimmick.
- The outside nut, body and center pin are made of solid brass.
- The center insulator is made from PTFE (the generic name for Teflon). The center pin is molded in, not

inserted then swaged. The insulator and pin can take blow-torch temperatures and when red-hot, the pin can be hit with a hammer and not move. Doubt that? MGS has documented it in a YouTube video called “PL-259 Prototype Testing”,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Nz2qRrQdUA>.

MGS PL-259s are so rugged they can be reused by heating the entire connector (most likely with a torch) and slamming it against a block of wood. The solder will fly out – the connector is ready to use again.

- The “back thread” (where UG inserts screw in) is cut properly. This is often not the case with \$1 connectors.
- In HiPot testing, the measured breakdown voltage is 700 volts higher than that of an Amphenol PL-259!
- The connector center pin accepts LMR-400 and 3/8” Heliax – every time. Everything is the same – every time.
- The part’s design is specified and the specs are published. You can go to the MGS web site and pull up the blueprints for their PL-259. The dimensions, plating, etc. are publicly available. \$1 “mystery connectors” never come with specifications. How will tomorrow’s “mystery PL-259” compare to today’s? No one knows, including the sellers.
- The parts are made offshore but not in China. Quality comes ahead of cost. MGS began selling self-designed PL-259s in 1989. From the beginning, incoming parts have been

inspected and vendors changed when necessary to maintain product quality. MGS suppliers meet environmental standards – something not easily (and rarely) done when dealing offshore.

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I'll close with this question: How does a product of this quality and with this level of support wind up costing \$2.25 in quantities of one? The answer lies in quantity. MGS buys 170,000 to 200,000 PL-259s at a time! If you think that's an impossibly large quantity for the ham market you are right, and yet, that's only a one year's supply for MGS. MGS's customers include resellers and commercial companies. Orders can be for as many as 5,000 at a time. Customers include companies like GM and national laboratories including Oak Ridge.

Figure 1 is a picture of an MGS PL-259. Figure 2 shows the “sales channel” at the Orlando Hamcation. The photos make the part look mundane – it's not, it's high-tech!

For more information see:

<https://mgs4u.com/product/pl-259-uhf-male-solder-connector-for-0-405-inch-od-coax-7500-uhf/#torture>

73,

Hal N4GG

## 25 Years Ago... (de Van Herridge, N4VGE, Bulletin Editor)



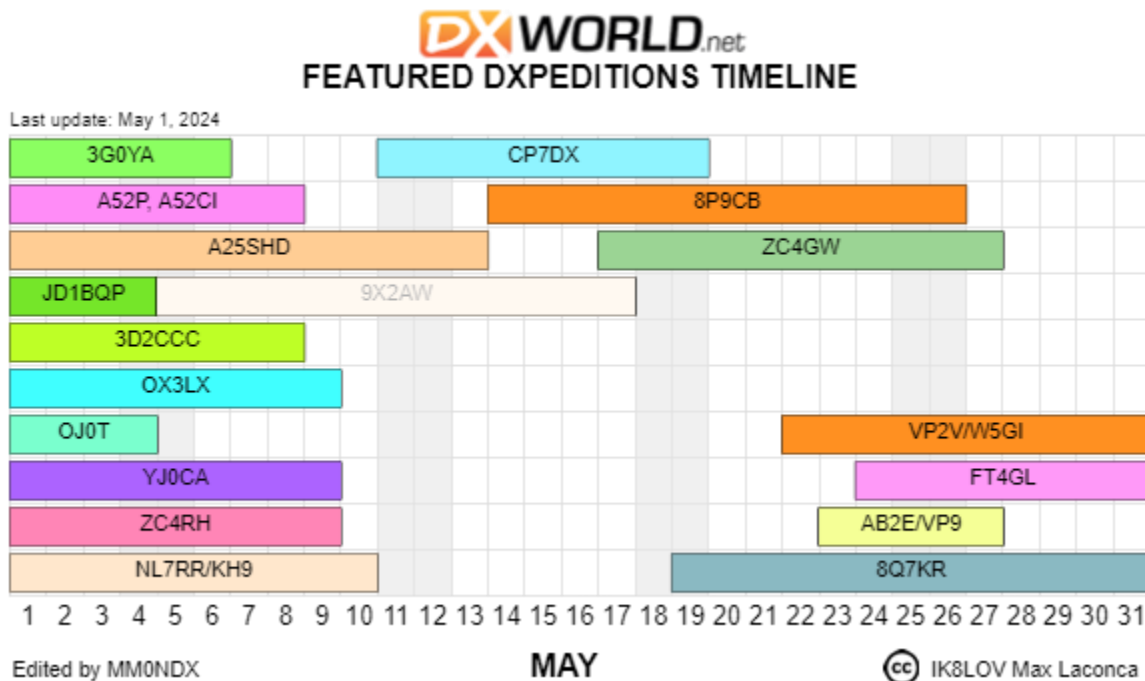
Greetings from the Editor. Check SEDXC's website to see the latest club information. [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org).

Room is still available for the Vanuatu Dxpediton for the CQ WW SSB Contest in October 2024. It costs just \$617.91 to reserve your seat. See more information at my the YJ0VV QRZ page. <https://www.qrz.com/db/YJ0VV>

See link below for the SEDXC Bulletin from 25 years ago.

<https://sedxc.org/sedxc/bulletins/sedxc0599.pdf>

The *DX World* Calendar/Timeline for May



The *DX World* Calendar features a timeline of all DXpeditions anticipated for the current month and is a great way to plan your chase for the next, All-Time New One (ATNO). The Calendar is updated regularly; use this link to see the latest version:

[https://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw\\_timeline\\_1\\_1.php](https://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw_timeline_1_1.php)

## SEDXC Officers & Positions

John Tramontanis, N4TOL – President – [iam4rb@gmail.com](mailto:iam4rb@gmail.com)

Nathan Wood, K4NHW – Vice President -- [nathan.wood23@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.wood23@gmail.com)

Joel Levine, WA4HNL – Secretary -- [jlevine@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlevine@bellsouth.net)

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN – Treasurer -- [jacantor9@gmail.com](mailto:jacantor9@gmail.com)

Verne Fowler, W8BLA – Activities Manager -- [w8bla@arrl.net](mailto:w8bla@arrl.net)

### SEDXC Appointed Positions

Chaz Cone, W4GKF – Webmaster – [w4gkf@chazcone.com](mailto:w4gkf@chazcone.com)

Van Herridge, N4VGE – *SEDXC Bulletin* Editor – [vanherridge@gmail.com](mailto:vanherridge@gmail.com)



# SEDXC DXpedition Funding Request

**Fill out the form completely and send it to:  
Treasurer.SEDXC@Gmail.com**

<b>Entity Name / Call Sign</b>	Rotuma 3D2Z
<b>Date of Application</b>	May 14, 2024
<b>Approx. Date and duration of Dxpediton</b>	Non 15-Dec 4 , 2024
<b>Web page</b>	Under construction
<b>Team leader / number of members:</b>	Gregg W6IZT, Hal W8HC, 6 team members total
<b>List name &amp; call of each team member</b>	Gregg W6IZT/3D2GR Hal W8HC/3D2Z Nathan K4NHW Mike W0VTT Jaime M0SDV + one TBD
<b>List DXPeditions that each team member above took part in</b>	K5N, PJ6A, HK0NA, 3Y0Z, VP6R, 9G4X, VP6A, JW0A, CB0ZA, NH8S, K9W, VK9WA, K5P, KL7RRC, KH8RRC, 8R7X
<b>QSL manager / QSL route</b>	TBD
<b>Funding amount requested – please attach budget &amp; show team’s contribution</b>	Preliminary budget: \$35k + personal expenses Team Contribution 50% Amount requested \$1750
<b>Send Funds to:</b>	Hal W8HC
<b>Position on most wanted list – both global &amp; North America – East Coast</b>	Global: 68  NA-EC: 96
<b>Landing permit/operating permission approved (attach copy).</b>	Landing permit not required W6IZT, W8HC license received
<b>Overview of antennas &amp; equipment to be taken on DXPedition</b>	3 ea K3+KPA500 2 ea NexGenRiB 160-6 Antennas on the beach
<b>Last time(s) this entity was activated</b>	2022?
<b>Typical interval between activations</b>	2-4 years



# SEDXC DXpedition Funding Request

<b>Method of transportation to DXpedition site</b>	Commercial air
<b>Your team's objective / strategy including social objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100k Qs local+remote,</li> <li>• Demonstrate the viability of low cost/light weight small team DXpeditioning</li> <li>• Introduce DXpeditioning to younger hams</li> <li>• Humanitarian aide,</li> <li>• Introduction to amateur radio to students</li> </ul>
<b>Callsign/Age of youngest Team member</b>	Jaime M0SDV Focus on filling last team member with a young ham.
<b>SEDXC member initiating request</b>	Gregg W6IZT
<b>SEDXC member(s) participating, if any</b>	Gregg W6IZT, Nathan K4NHW
<b>SEDXC logo on QSL card &amp; web page?</b>	Yes
<b>Additional comments:</b>	

## Internal Use

Date published in the newsletter	
Review/analysis of SEDXC Club Leagues member sample (N= )	ATNO:  Band Fills:
Results of member review at the meeting: (approved / disapproved) Recommendation \$ _____	Recommended \$ _____
Funds disbursed on date:	
Funds disbursed by:	