



# Bulletin



June 2018

## From the Pres

Dayton/Xenia is history. Dinner turnout at the Amber Rose was slim. Seems that competition for Thursday evening dinner has grown. Twelve of us enjoyed drinks, dinner, and each other's company. As always, the Amber Rose staff took good care of us.



The Atlanta Radio Club/Kennehoochee Hamfest was a big success. The new venue at the Cobb Civic Center was great. SEDXC had 18 members come by the booth to renew their membership prior to the June deadline. Many more (presumably paid on line) said hello!

Six meters is buzzing with FT8 signals thanks to K4PI, Mike for daily band condition reports and operating tips. I missed working the Vatican City station, but Mike's intel says they will be back on the magic band in a week or so.

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## Veep's Report

### This Month's Meeting

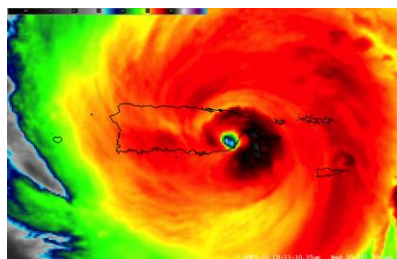
Date/Time: **Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>** @ 7:30 PM  
Location: Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital  
Details at [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)

Program Title: **Boots on the Ground in Puerto Rico**  
Speaker: **Wey K8EAB**



Wey was among the first to respond to the American Red Cross request to ARRL for amateur radio operators to provide emergency communications in the aftermath of the storm.

Hurricane Maria, designated as such on September 9, 2017 intensified from Category 1 to 5 within an 18-hour period, and made its first landfall on the island of Dominica (J7) on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. It crossed the island of St. Croix, VI (KP2) with 175 mph winds on the 20<sup>th</sup>, losing some strength before making landfall in Puerto Rico (KP4) later that morning.



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### From the Pres (cont.)

On a sad note, K4ST, Kiyoshi Endo who was an active club member until he moved to California, lost his wife Linda a year ago. It is Japanese tradition to celebrate the life of one who has passed after a year. Kiyoshi, know that we join you in remembering Linda and we are thankful that we had the pleasure of her company at many SEDXC picnics and holiday parties. We join you in remembering her fondly!

It's that time of the year again: a new leadership team. Officers – K5TF, Dick Baxter has agreed to run for President. K1ZN, Jeff Cantor has agreed to remain in the treasurer position for another term. The VP, Secretary, and Activities slots are open. I'd suggest you be at the June meeting or take your chances on being elected!

Thanks to all who made my two years as President go by so quickly. We funded a lot of dxpeditions; ate a respectable amount of BBQ (thanks W4KLY, Paul and Eileen); showed the banner in Friedrichshafen and all of the local hamfests; kept the membership number hovering near 300; and had a lot of fun swapping tall tales. Good programs have been the key to keeping the attendance at meetings up! A big thanks goes to AE4CW, Chuck and then K5TF for bringing us great programs during my tenure as President. Thanks goes to, K1ZN Jeff who kept the checkbook and coordinated with W4GKF, Chaz to keep the membership database updated. Thanks also to Norm for hauling the club stuff to hamfests and for keeping me on track. Finally, thanks to WU4B, Clark who cheerfully prodded and poked us for our monthly reports and converted them to English for inclusion in the Bulletin!

73 es gud DX,

Mike ND4V❖

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### Treasurer's Journal

Checkbook Balance as of June 11, 2018: \$7500.

I'll give an update at the meeting as renewals are coming in. **Remember**...the number that counts for us is the balance on July 1 as that determines how much we can give to Dxpeditons. If you haven't yet renewed, now is the time!!

73,

Jeff K1ZN❖

### Activities Chairman

Thanks everyone that came by or spent some time at the SEDXC table and a **Special Thanks** to those that stopped long enough to pay your dues. There are several of you that we only get to see at hamfests and that's great.

It was also good to see several SEDXC members in Dayton (Xenia)

Norm WA4ZXV❖

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### Announcements



Go to [dues.sedxc.org](https://dues.sedxc.org) to renew your SEDXC Membership. **Do it today!**

## SEDXC OFFICERS

**President:** Mike Weathers, ND4V  
[nd4v@comcast.net](mailto:nd4v@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Dick Baxter, K5TF  
[K5tf58@gmail.com](mailto:K5tf58@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Paul Kelley, W4KLY  
[w4kly@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4kly@bellsouth.net)

**Treasurer:** Jeffrey Cantor, K1ZN  
[jacantor9@Gmail.com](mailto:jacantor9@Gmail.com)

**Activities:** Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV  
[Wa4zxv@arrl.net](mailto:Wa4zxv@arrl.net)

## Appointed Positions

**SEDXC Bulletin Editor:** Clark Macaulay, WU4B  
[clark.macaulay@gmail.com](mailto:clark.macaulay@gmail.com)

**Membership Committee Chairman**  
Bill Barr, N4NX  
[n4nx@arrl.net](mailto:n4nx@arrl.net)

**Webmaster:** Chaz cone, W4GKF  
[w4gkf@chazcone.com](mailto:w4gkf@chazcone.com)

## Club Communications

SEDXC Webpage: [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)

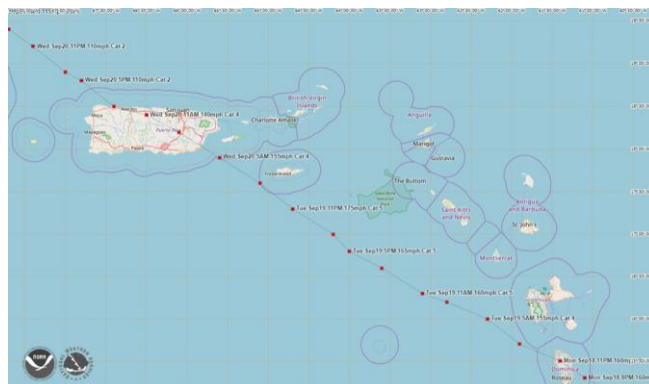
SEDXC Chat Room: details on webpage

SEDXC Reflector: details on webpage

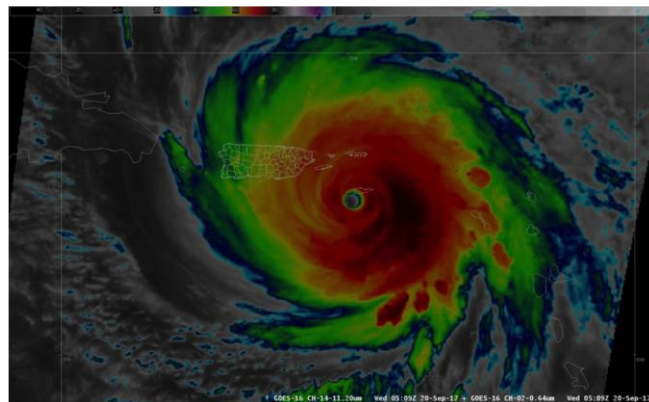
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## Veep's Report (cont.)

Maria crossed the length of Puerto Rico from the southeast to northwest as a Category 4 storm with 155 mph maximum sustained winds and extremely heavy rainfall producing catastrophic flooding and leaving the island's transportation, power, and communications infrastructure virtually totally destroyed. The total number of storm-related deaths remains unresolved as of the current date, over nine months later.



Part 97 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, consisting of telecommunication rules, governs the Amateur Radio Service. Of the five basic purposes of the Amateur Radio Service, the first relates to emergency communications, which Wey and 21 other "Force of 50" provided while on the island.



I hope to see you all at the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>!

73,

DICK K5TF ❖

## Around the Shack



This month's column is about my favorite ham-related tool. That tool is a "Solder-it," made by the Solder-it company in Ohio. [Solder-It.com](http://Solder-It.com)

A "Solder-it" is a small, hand-held butane torch. Butane is great stuff – it does not burn as hot as propane - a good thing. Propane torches are great for sweat soldering copper pipe, but for tasks like soldering antenna wire they can be too hot. Place a piece of copper wire in the hottest part of the flame of a propane torch (the tip of the inner blue flame). See it change colors? It's oxidizing, it's losing any annealing it had and in general is deteriorating. It is easily possible to fail at trying to solder two copper wires together with a propane torch, due to excess heat deteriorating both the copper and the solder. Butane gets the job done and is very forgiving. [Here is an interesting experiment: heat a new-style "copper" penny with a propane torch. It will melt!]

Solder-its come in several sizes and with a variety of tips. I have the 120 watt version and I always leave the tip off. It provides a nice blue flame and it's perfect for soldering antenna wire in the back yard. It amazes me how well it stays lit in a stiff breeze. There is a built in click igniter too, so re-lighting is just a thumb push. Butane is readily available - Lowes and Home Depot carry it in small and large cans and it's not expensive. A little goes a long way, too.

You can find Solder-it torches on Amazon and sometimes in places like Lowes. There are inexpensive (read: cheap) Chinese knock-offs too, I suggest going with the real thing. Amazon currently sells the 120 watt Solder-it with a nice case and lots of tips for \$55 – it's worth it. I have had mine for years. N4GG is a "wires in the woods" station – my Solder-it has seen A LOT of use.

One thing you do not want to do is drop a Solder-it torch tail end down onto a concrete floor – which I have done. The reservoir is a hard plastic (Lexan?) but it will crack. The Solder-it folks were nice about fixing it for a small fee.

My Solder-it really is my favorite tool. I used to drag soldering irons and extension cords out to the back yard and sometimes up towers. No more. I moved from that to overheating things with a propane torch and then finally to my Solder-it. Butane is the answer. See the figure for a picture of mine.

73,

Hal N4GG❖



## DXpedition Funding Requests

*None at this time.*