



Bulletin



June 2022

Founded In 1958

Our Next Meeting & Speaker

Date & Time: Thursday, June 16, 2022, 7:00 PM

Location: Via Zoom

Theme: *SEDXC Vital Signs: How We Are Doing – How We Can Be Better*
Various Speakers

From the Prez *(de Chuck Catledge, AE4CW & Clark Macaulay, WU4B)*



Welcome to the SEDXC June Bulletin and an introduction to the June club meeting! This month's Bulletin and meeting are unique. We have titled them:

SEDXC Vital Signs: How We Are Doing—How We Can Be Better

Any club exists to meet the needs of its members, and SEDXC is no exception. When the new leadership team was voted in last June, several initiatives were started to strengthen SEDXC. During this meeting, the leadership team will update members on how they think the club is doing. Then, it's your turn: tell us how YOU think we are doing and changes you would like to see to better meet the needs of the membership. We urge all members to join this discussion on Thursday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern time.



Here's a snapshot of the major topics we expect to cover along with the presenters of each topic:

SEDXC Purpose/Mission Review and Feedback. (Chuck, AE4CW)

Attracting/mentoring new DXers, encouraging active DX chasing, and promoting effective DXing techniques (i.e., ClubLog).

DXCC Advisory Committee Update and Feedback. (Dick, K5TF)

The current focus of the Advisory Committee; where we think they should be focused; what's required to gain that focus.

CQ DX Marathon: Purpose and Feedback. (Andy, AA5JF)

DX is always available; multiple ways to work DX, e.g. 100W, QRP; the Marathon keeps DX alive in our blood.

Meeting Program Strategy and Feedback. (Clark, WU4B)

A key indicator of a club's vitality is lifelong learning to accomplish new achievements. The search is constantly on for speakers to challenge us in three areas: technology, skills, and lessons learned from DXers.

Moving SEDXC Goals Forward and Feedback. (Jeff, K1ZN)

Establish web store for SEDXC items; Elmers for new DXers, e.g. DX Pro's; member awards and accomplishments.

Organizations don't remain static; they tend to either grow in vitality or drift into malaise. Our fervent goal for the SEDXC is to advance up the vitality scale. A key element that will determine the course of the SEDXC is the participation of the members and their contributions to the club's growth and vitality. So, we ask you to consider your interests, talents, skills and personal inclinations and think about how you might help the club climb higher up the vitality scale.

June is also the month when the club nominates and selects the officers who will lead the club for the next fiscal year, July 2022 through June 2023. A nominating committee composed of Mike Weathers ND4V, John Tramontanis N4TOL and Paul Kelly W4KLY was appointed by the President in May. The committee returned a suite of nominees which was published in the May Bulletin and is also published in the June Bulletin immediately below this article. Please review these candidates in preparation for a vote during the June meeting.

73 es gud DX,

Chuck, AE4CW

Clark, WU4B

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 Hensey

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

VP's Corner *(de Clark Macaulay, WU4B)*

Kudzu Technology



About 7 years ago, I was lamenting to a fellow ham that I had just added a 2nd display to my operating position and wondered how this happened. Sometimes I long for the simplicity of my earlier days (2006) when I had one radio and a laptop computer for logging. How did I end up with a hi-performance computer that I built, two sound cards, panadapter for the K3, and two huge displays? The radio is the smallest box of all. Isn't this hobby called ham "radio"?

My friend Pickett, AD4S, mentioned that technology is like kudzu. Once it gets started, it grows and grows. In my case, once I decided to get serious about working the huge CW pileups in chasing rare DX, I needed CW Skimmer to locate where the DX was listening, and that led to the panadapter, higher performance CPU, and two--not just one, two displays--with higher



pixel count to display the CW spectrum out to 20 Khz. The technology kudzu seeds had taken root at WU4B.

I've had the same operating configuration described above for about 5 years and believed that the kudzu technology roots had died. *Au contraire!!* I have a new need that my current technology won't provide. As part of the CQ DX Marathon, I'm chasing DX that I may have worked in the past but not in 2022. At 178 countries worked so far this year, the probability of a new one is using FT8. Since I can't be spending hours in front of the radio, I sure would like to be alerted (note the word here) when a new one is spotted. Mike K4PI (and a few others) have told me to use JTAlert to identify a new one that is not in log. I haven't installed JTAlert as my logging program already tells me that when I'm sitting in front of the rig. JTAlert, I'm told, has an alarm feature for specific calls, but that alarm only sounds on my shack computer that is in the basement while I spend most of my time in my study on the 2nd floor.

This is where a new kudzu technology branch comes in: *TeamViewer* <https://www.teamviewer.com/en-us/>. Chuck (AE4CW) first suggested I check this out, and the article *Pop-Up Remote* in the current issue of NCJ (free to ARRL members) discusses how W1VE used remote software to allow remote operation of his station on Cayman Brac as ZF2VE. Let me be perfectly clear here: I'm not commenting on his remote operation at all. What I'm interested in is simply being able to see JTAlert in the study when the alarm goes off. Then I'll trot downstairs and try to work him. If there was some way to have JTAlert send a text message, that would be great, but so far, I haven't figured out how to do that.

This afternoon, I installed TeamViewer on the shack PC, installed it on the study PC, and two clicks later I was looking at Logger32 (shack computer W10) on my iMac (OSx) in the study. No cost; no hiccups (so far). Really cool. My next step is to install JTAlert on the shack computer and set it up for the DX I'm needing using the DXpedition table from Weekly DX.

Perhaps next month I can report on my success---wait! Logger32 shows KH0W/M is spotted on 20m CW, so I gotta run downstairs and try to work him. See ya next month.

73 es gud DX,

Clark, WU4B

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



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

Purpose	Amount
Check Written 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
Postage	\$6.38
TOTAL:	\$4,609.94

Our Account Balance is \$12,849.34, as of June 8th.

Please take note of our new "SEDXC Store" button on our website main page. We now have available both SEDXC Badges & SEDXC Patches for sale. We also have for sale the book, *Adventures in DXing*, written by K1ZN (that's me). The profits of each sale to accrue to SEDXC. Buy yours now!

Gud DX & 73,

Jeff, K1ZN

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

Hints & Kinks – The N4GG Woodstock Station (Part 1)



All good things must come to an end. N4GG was QRV from Woodstock, GA from mid-2003 until May, 2022. During that time over 400 contests were entered and 300-plus DXCC entities were worked on 1.8 through 50 MHz. The walls are covered with plaques; the QSL card cabinet is overflowing. The gear is for sale or already sold.

This is not, however, a nostalgia piece. There will be a next N4GG – it just won't be as grand. As the disassembly of N4GG has progressed I've run across items I designed, built and installed outdoors over a decade ago. I've decided to photograph them and write about them here before they become scattered and my memory is gone for good. I'll try to cover one a month for the next few months.

N4GG was a state-of-the-art SO2R (single op, two radio) contest and DXing station. The design objective was to make everything as good as it could be while acknowledging the antennas were subject to HOA restrictions. Modest antennas *were not* a reason to have a modest shack or a modest signal. It was quite the

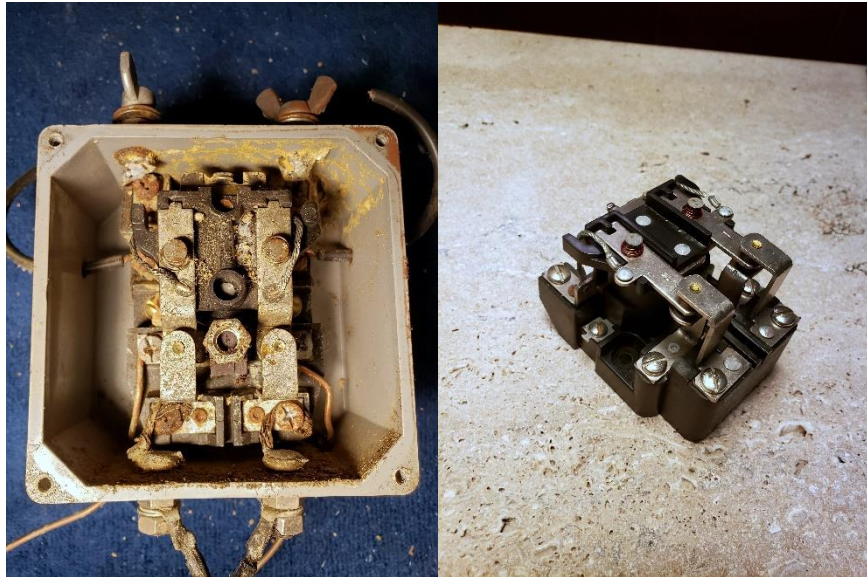
opposite. The design mantra: Make up for whatever was lacking outside with quality inside.

The station was designed for electrical efficiency (less heat) and operating efficiency (less fatigue). Operating efficiency was the independent variable when making design choices. Everything from the layout of the desktop to the comfortable chair (Herman Miller Aeron) was thought through. The design requirements were:

- Ease of simultaneous use of two radios on any combination of two of the six HF contest bands.
- Ease of operation with minimal fatigue for long operating periods (i.e., the 20 hours of ARRL Sweepstakes).
- Fully functional for daily DXing on 160 through 6 meters, with no configuration changes needed to move between contesting and DXing.
- Best signal possible, legally. No more than 1,500 watts. No less than 1,500 watts very often, either.
- Automated antenna and bandpass filter switching ONLY where it made sense. No automation for automation's sake. Nothing digital for the sake of being digital.
- Maximum reliability. The station had to stay on the air with no failures, at full power, for the full 48 hours of a major contest.
- Durability: The station had to meet the reliability goal for a decade or more without downtime and with minimal maintenance.
- No changes once built. Use the best gear, layout and practices and then leave it alone. Time was to be spent operating, not loading an infinite stream of firmware updates. Buy from manufacturers that supply finished products rather than those who use their customers as alpha and beta testers.
- Maximize lightning protection. Goal: A direct hit on any antenna causes no damage inside. That's a tough one!

As the station has come apart, I've been reminded of components and designs chosen to meet the above requirements. A lot of hardware was installed then remained untouched for as long as 17 years. Some of the ideas offered in prior *Around the Shack* columns actually work!

To start off this series of columns let's look at an outdoor relay box I used to switch the balanced feedline of a 20 meter folded dipole between use on 20 meters and use as a resonant 160 meter vertical. Figure 1 is a photo of the inside of the box after 17 years outdoors. The interior is caked with mud. It looks terrible. It still works fine. For reference, Figure 2 shows a new, unused relay.



The box is a 4 X 4-inch NEMA electrical enclosure. These are readily available at home goods stores in a variety of sizes. You can also find a wide selection on Amazon. I used a NEMA box because they are inexpensive, non-conductive (the PVC version) and have a gasketed cover that provides a good seal. They are designed to protect electrical equipment outdoors. Note however, and as mentioned in a prior column, these and other boxes are not “waterproof” despite sometimes being advertised as such.

One of the considerations with NEMA boxes is the PVC they’re made of creeps under compression. This makes it difficult to keep thru-bolted connections tight over time. Split washers and wave washers are helpful but the best approach is to design and build in such a way that loosening of thru-bolt connecting hardware does not loosen the connection. It’s easier than it sounds.

Take a close look at Figure 1. RF enters and exits the box via thru-bolts at the top and bottom of the box. The bolts are brass, not stainless steel (SS) as one might expect. Brass can be soldered to and conducts RF better than SS. Inside the box, connections to the thru-bolts were made with heavy stranded wire, soldered to the heads of the bolts. This precluded problems later from “loose connections.”

At the outside of the box the bolts were secured against the box with a washer, a lock washer and an SS nut. The bolt and nut will loosen over time as the PVC relaxes, though not enough to cause mechanical issues. External connections to the thru-bolts at the bottom of the box were made with ring terminals and a second nut. The nut-on-nut approach won’t loosen or become electrically intermittent over time.

Connection to the top thru-bolts used wing nuts to secure the antenna’s balanced transmission line between two washers and against the first nut. The box was three feet above the ground, mounted to a U-Post. The transmission line’s antenna end

was 80 feet above the ground and the line was “flapping in the breeze.” The wing nuts were tightened enough to secure the transmission line in a moderate breeze, but loose enough to allow the connections to break away in a strong wind. Stranded wire was chosen for the connections inside the box to allow for wind-induced “wiggling” of the connections.

It’s hard to see, but wire was used to carry RF for 160 meters through holes in the bottom of the box. The holes were a pathway for the wires and served as drain holes. Note the interior of the box has only minor surface rust on the steel components of the relay. Over 17 years the relay was never exposed to water, just humidity.

So, why was the box full of mud? Ants, that’s why. Ants, earwigs and other small critters think NEMA boxes make a great house. They bring in what they need to make a house a home. As much as I had wanted N4GG to be a zero-maintenance station, sometimes it wasn’t possible. Spraying insecticide on the outside of the outdoor NEMA boxes became part of bi-annual maintenance.

Next month we will take a look at another NEMA box that was used as a control cable junction point as well as a critical part of the lightning protection system.

In March, 2020 I suggested every bolts, nut, washer, fuse, etc., etc. should be thought through when building a station. I hope this example illustrates attention to detail pays big dividends over time.

73,

Hal, N4GG

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



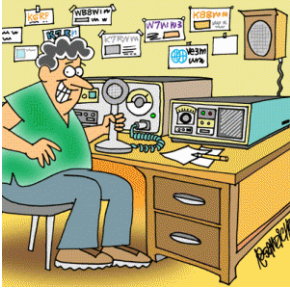
"If it wasn't for ham radio, I would have never even heard of Kyrgyzstan, Brunei, Kiribati, Djibouti, Malta, Nauru, Azerbaijan, or Burkina Faso!

The June, 1997 Newsletter is attached for your entertainment. Then president Steve Schmidt (K4WA) muses about the impact of the Internet, and how it compares to Amateur Radio. So much has changed! The Internet was already making an impact on our hobby, but who would have imagined Internet-connected remote operations, DX clusters that are connected to logging applications and transceivers, digital modes, etc. We live in amazing Amateur Radio Days, brought about by great technical minds, committed to experimentation, and unwilling to believe that the best days of our hobby are behind us!

This month, the Board will be presenting a number of topics that outline some great thoughts for our future as a club – some “tried and true” ideas, and a few new ones. I am grateful for the forum to discuss new ideas; we get the chance to keep the club

a relevant part of our hobby. Plus, we get to help *define* the future of our SEDXC Amateur Radio Days; let's make them *AMAZING!*

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

June 1997



K4UJ photo

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION
Tuesday, June 17th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House
in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

THE USUAL GANG OF SUSPECTS...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Steve Schmidt, K4WA, President

(continued from last month) eyeing the clock as the minutes, and my chances, tick away. Seems like he's calling stations that are up just slightly. I set my transmit frequency up just a hair and try to find a hole in the QRM. It's time to leave, but I hang in for a couple more calls, hoping to get that lucky shot. Just as I'm about to turn off the rig, he changes his pattern and sends an "SK" at the end of a QSO. There's a

pregnant pause as the pileup tries to digest the change. I frantically drop my call one time and listen. Lots of guys calling him now, but he's coming back to someone..could it be me? Sounded like he sent a "W," but I can't be sure. I wait, and the callers trail off. "K4W? 599" Yahoo, I got him! I send my call a couple times, a generous 579, and a 73. "R K4WA TNX 579 73 SK"

He was a good operator. Of course, they all get a little better when they work you. With BS7H on the horizon and an Annobon operation coming up, things are looking up. Maybe it's time to start prowlng the bands again. -End. (Steve's June article p2, promise!)

K4WA's June Article:

I recently read a letter to the editor in QST in which the writer was complaining about the ARRL's recommendations for changes to the amateur licensing requirements. He seemed especially upset about the failure to eliminate the three-tier code requirement and stated that "the Internet will continue to grow due to unenthused and disgruntled amateurs." Those comments stuck with me, for some reason. I find them somewhat amusing.

Hey, don't get me wrong. I like the Internet as much as the next guy. Comparing DXing, contesting, or simple ragchewing on the radio to cruising the 'Net is just silly. Can you picture DXing on the 'Net? Doesn't sound like much of a challenge there. The big pileups will just cause a breakdown in servers and bandwidth, causing some to wring their hands and complain about the new breed of users not being as courteous as the old. I think I've already worked most of the active countries, the trick will be to get phone lines to Peter I, Heard and Bouvet.

Then there's contesting, how much e-mail can you send out in a 48-hour period? Do you need to get a response from the recipient of your e-mail to have it qualify, or can you just "Spam" everybody? Gee, that sounds like fun. Ragchewing works okay on the 'Net, I suppose. You pretty much know whom you're going to talk to. Somehow it just loses some of its innate charm without a good CQ. Tough to CQ on the 'Net. I guess that's what chat rooms are for.

After you get past the operating differences, there are still the physical differences between the radio and computer worlds. No matter how you slice it, the bandwidth from 14,000 kHz to 14,350 kHz is 350 kHz. In the computer world, a megabyte isn't, a 14" screen isn't, a 33.6K modem doesn't, and a "three-hour" laptop battery won't. With an old Collins radio, you can still work the world. With a 1200 baud Hayes modem, you can't even work your local Post Office.

Maybe I'm old-fashioned. Maybe I've heard too many cries for "dumbing down" licensing requirements. Perhaps I'm wrong; I just get the idea that the disgruntled writer would like to have us hold code tests that are labeled 20 wpm, but actually run at 13 wpm. Maybe I should look him up in a chat room and ask him.

I'll look for you at the next meeting. Rick has promised to include the last part of last month's column in this issue. Stay tuned for the exciting finale to this article in next month's issue. -73 Steve, K4WA

VP SIGNALS

-Paul Pescitelli, K4UJ, VP

Well the meeting last month was a welcomed short one. After a luxurious weekend in beautiful downtown Dayton, I had about all of Ham Radio I could take in one week. For those of you who did not make it to Dayton or to the meeting, let me reiterate this: I had dozens of people stop to chat with me about the club and some of its members. K4ISV, K4UU and others passed on a southern HOWDY! (and a few snide comments) to N4RJ, K4JPD, and others, which I have since forgotten due to some clear Russian liquid that kept making its way into my orange juice. After talking with all those people I had reassurance that the Southeastern DX Club is alive and well (they obviously have not been to a meeting recently), and very well respected. Several told me that we had the best hospitality suite going Friday night. Many thanks to Paul Hansen for tending bar so Steve and I could mingle at some other Hospitality Suites.

This month's program will be given by Tom W8JI. If you missed his last presentation you will surely want to attend this one. Topic of discussion? Ha, should you really ask! Tom is going to explain the workings of antennas, probably centered around dipoles and yagis. Bring your notepad and a big appetite.

73 - Paul K4UJ

SEE YOU AT THE HAMFEST!!!

The SEDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southeastern DX Club. All opinions expressed by the contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, officers, or club. We welcome your opinion.

SEDXC MINUTES 5/97

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

The meeting was called to order by Paul K4UJ because President Steve, K4WA, who had recently returned from Dayton, had to go out-of-town to work so he could pay for all those 'bargains' he purchased.

Paul reported that the SEDXC hospitality suite was a success and that the Kansas City DX Club (who sponsors the hospitality suite on Saturday night) has suggested that, instead of sponsoring the suite on separate nights, the two clubs pool their resources and jointly sponsor the suite for the two nights. SEDXC would have the responsibility for entertainment (CW contest) on one night, and the KCDXC would do it the second night. The KCDXC would be responsible for purchasing the drinks. A motion was made and SEDXC and KCDXC jointly sponsor the hospitality suite in Dayton next year and it was carried.

For the record, Phil Latta, W4GTS, has volunteered to help with the distribution of the CQWW 160 plaques.

Volunteers were requested to work at the Atlanta Hamfest.

The Club is desperately seeking volunteers for officers for the next year. If anyone is remotely interested, please contact an officer.

Nominations for the Club's 'Ham of the Year' were requested. Please contact Steve, K4WA, if you have any suggestions.

There was a discussion regarding Paul's 'Mega Cluster', including other packet clusters which were accessing it. Paul indicated that he was in need of further funding for start-up costs and N4XMX immediately wrote him a check. Unfortunately, he made it payable to SEDXC so a motion was made and carried that the amount of the check be forwarded to Paul.

A discussion was held on the Scarborough Reef Dxpediton.

Once again, if anyone wants a new SEDXC name badge, please contact: Marquis Engraving P.O. Box 652 Fairforest, SC 29336 1/800/579-3039

73, Nancy, NK4U Secretary
because no one else would do it

BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

Having missed the last meeting due to a conflict

with the Atlanta Ham Festival planning meeting, I have little to report on. Hopefully you have mulled over the negative report of the Nomination Committee and have formed some opinion as to the direction the club oughta be taking. At the moment, that direction seems to me to be "west" rather than Southeast as it should be.

The Atlanta Ham Festival is taking shape nicely, with the following commercial vendors signed on: HRO, Ramsey Electronics, Alpha/Power, Kenwood, Wireman, C&J Radio, Electronics Unlimited, RT Systems, The Signman of Baton Rouge, Vibroplex, Bearcat, H & L Computers, MFJ, Ameritron, Mirage, Vectronics, Horizon Sales, WB0W (that's a callsign!), and Paccomm. SEDXClub will be in Booth 701 and we will have Bill Moore, NC1L, from the League checking cards so you can bring those exotic ones in for checking and avoid losing them in the mail. The League will be hanging out in Booth 700. About 1/2 of the Flea Market Tables have been sold (in doors and air-conditioned). The Boneyard will be a covered level of the parking deck, drive up and sell your boat anchors!

Good news is our furthest flung member (at the moment) K4DG (M0AOP)(ex N4REE) will be flying in from Gatwick and staying at the K2UFT household in addition to enjoying the show. Say HI to Dale when you see him. CU next meeting

73 - Dick, K2UFT

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 5/1/97 (Checkbook)	\$1484.33
Income:	\$1459.50
Expenses:	
Bank Charges	10.00
May Newsletter	68.40
Dayton Hosp. Rm	200.00
K4UJ Megacluster	150.00
Outgoing QSL cards	8.00
Balance Checking 6/1/97	\$2507.43*

* As part of this balance, \$845.15 is from the Cluster Fund and \$859.20 is from the CQWW Plaque Fund. The actual SEDXC balance is \$803.08. As is obvious above, SEDXC is not going to sponsor any DXpeditons right now. Dues are due and hopefully that should put us in pretty good shape for the next fiscal year. Hope everyone had a great time at the Atlanta Hamfest. See y'all at the next meeting.

73, Nancy, NK4U, Treasurer