



# Bulletin



July 2014

## From the Pres

**Wey K8EAB**

### Congratulations to the new slate of SEDXC officers:

President – Wey Walker, K8EAB  
Vice President – Vaden McDonald, NN4K  
Secretary – Buzz Kutcher, K3GWK  
Treasurer – Jeffrey Cantor, K1ZN  
Activities Manager – John Tramontanis, N4TOL

### Appointees:

Bulletin Editor - Clark Macaulay, WU4B  
Membership Chairman - Bill Barr, N4NX  
WebMaster & Database Mgr – Chaz Cone, W4GKF

Please give these folks your support as they guide our club through another operating year. Let VP-Vaden McDonald know what your suggestions are for programs and speakers. Volunteer to help AM-John Tramontanis man the SEDXC table at local Atlanta Hamfests and other events.

### A word about HamJam:

SEDXC's sponsorship of this very worthwhile Amateur Radio event along with NFARL has been to help in case the event lost money. Fortunately, due to the hard work and efforts of many folks in both SEDXC and NFARL, disbursing funds from our treasury to cover event expenses was never needed.

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## Veep's Report

**Vaden NN4K**

### Last Month's Meeting

SEDXC member Chris Balch, KS4MM delivered a very useful presentation about amateur radio towers. He covered the full scheme of what a typical ham encounters from the point of beginning a plan to how to prepare documentation for a presentation to various levels of government agencies all the way to the successful completion of the project. Chris is an attorney who is one of the ARRL Counselors. Chris says every case is different and he has had many successful experiences. He also recommends reading and studying the ARRL publication, "Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur," by Fred Hopengarten, K1VR.



L-R: Norm WA4ZXV, Chris KS4MM, Wey K8EAB

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING

[www.sedxc.org/june14.htm](http://www.sedxc.org/june14.htm)

**Program: DXpedition in Grand Style (or how to have mucho fun while on the Island of Saint Lucia!)**

**Presented by: Jim Stafford, W4QO**

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## SEDXC OFFICERS

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## Appointed Positions

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## 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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Our Speaker for the July meeting is Jim Stafford, W4QO. "Quaker Oats" has one of the most impressive résumés you will ever see in this hobby. He was the 2010 Dayton Hamvention Amateur of the Year, with 50 years of service to Amateur Radio, support for public service, and unending efforts to recruit and develop hams of all ages. Jim got his Novice ticket (KN9MAF) at age 16. After graduating Purdue University and MIT with a degree in electrical engineering, he started his career at Bell Telephone Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey. He progressed through a number of positions at AT&T, Southern Bell, and Bellsouth. He retired after 30 years in 1994 in Atlanta.

Early on, Jim reached out to young people to get them interested in the sciences and Amateur Radio. Based on his work with youth and adults teaching Amateur Radio, he was named the 1992 ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year.

An avid QRPer, he joined the QRP Amateur Radio Club International executive board in 1995, serving as Vice President in 1999, President in 2000-2002 and chairman of the popular Four Days In May event in 2005. He is a long-time member of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL), becoming President in the fall of 2006. Today, that club has more than 250 members, weekly activities for all ages, and is an ARRL Special Service Club.

Jim presently serves as NFARL's youth/school liaison. He is a member of the Southeastern DX Club (SEDXC), the South East Contest Club (SECC), the Atlanta Radio Club (ARC), NFARL, and the Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneer Amateur Radio Club (MATPARC). He is an ARRL Life Member. He is married to Marilyn, K4ZOL, and has two children and two grandchildren.

## PICNIC

The SEDXC Summer Picnic will be hosted by Ken and Trish Byers at their home on Lake Lanier. The date is August 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be asking for volunteers to bring food dishes, provide supplies, and to help with picnic chores. [Look for your eVite HERE!](#)

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## **Food for thought**

When you are not chasing DX during July, August and September it's a good time to work on your station and antennas. I have been reflecting on what I can do to improve performance in DX chasing and contests operations. New goals are being set to concentrate on working entities in modes I have low DXCC confirmations such as RTTY and 160 meters.

Other thoughts going on relate to how can we help new members or existing members with their DX pursuits. Long ago we used to have a "phone alert" to advise members who were looking for unworked DX to let them know when one they want/need was active. The DX Clusters are always available, but I think what is missing is the linkage for members helping members. If there is some interest in doing something of this nature, let's talk about it at the July Meeting.

CW operation has been my preferred mode of operation for a long time and I wanted to improve my ability to use CW at a higher speed. Finding the organization, CWOps lead to an 8-week training course with one of the CWOps Advisors, W0UCE, Jack Ritter. At the end I had accomplished the initial goal of 25 wpm proficiency and now I'm working to increase the skill even more. I didn't know if my old brain could do it but the results are very satisfying. As you know a lot of DXexpeditions run cw operations at high speed as well as most of the highly competitive contest stations. There are several members of SEDXC who are and have been members of CWOps for some time.

One thing lead to another and I have been appointed as a CWOps Ambassador for the SE USA Region. It's a position for promoting the activities of CWOps and it's activities. As part of my promotion plan, I'll be setting up "CW Call Sign Copying" competitions at hamfests in the region. The software RUFZXP will be at the heart of each event. It can score performance for each entrant and measure top cw speed achieved while copying call signs. The program is available from [www.afreet.com](http://www.afreet.com) and it's free to download. The first competition in the Atlanta area will be done at the Stone Mountain Hamfest. Plans are working to conduct competitions at the Hunstville Hamfest and the Shelby NC Hamfest. Practice up!

CW is fun and there are a lot of people who still use it for ragchews, traffic handling, chasing DX and contests. CWOps runs an Academy for training people to learn code at various levels. See their website for full details, [www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org).

Vaden, NN4K ❖

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## **SEDXC Funding Requests**

None.