



# Southeastern DX Club W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB

August 2012

## President's Report:

What a picnic! Weather just stood by and waited for us to have a good time. Ken and Trish put on a great party with boat rides, plenty of beverages (the drinking kind) and lots of good food. Thanks everyone that participated and especially to those that brought food. We know the weather scared some off, and we missed you. But we had a good time anyway. A link to some of the photos was sent to the email list. And thanks to Wey for coordinating and Chaz for inviting.

We would like to create a new club brochure for handing out at hamfests and when we visit other area clubs. Just this month, I've had a couple questions by ham friends asking just what SEDXC is and what we do. It would be nice to have something to hand or send them. If you have some graphic and layout skills and would like to help, let me know.

We are also planning to resurrect the DXPros or something like it. From what I understand, DXpros was supposed to help other hams interested in DX get up and running with some advanced know how. If you would like to be part of the New DXpros team, let me know.

We have a couple requests for funding that will come up at the meeting. Again this month we'll have the Exec meeting at our regular meeting place starting at 6:30. If you have questions, suggestions or big ideas, you are welcome to attend.

There's some DX out there if you can keep your antenna connected to the radio long enough to make a contact.

With the Huntsville Hamfest, Shelby Hamfest, Stone Mountain HamFest, HamJam, TechFest and our great monthly meetings, there's *plenty* going on this fall in the ham radio world. DXpeditions are in the plenty for the rest of the year. Sure you don't need them all, but someone does (probably me).

73, Norm, WA4ZXV

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## Vice President's Report:

The annual SEDXC Picnic was held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Lanier house of Ken and Trish Byers. Be sure to thank them for their hospitality at [k4tea@bellsouth.net](mailto:k4tea@bellsouth.net)



The weather finally cooperated and the turnout was good. Photos are at

<https://picasaweb.google.com/116063355940481233158/SEDXCSummerPicnic2012>

## Edward's DXcellent Adventure!

Our Speaker for the August meeting is Edward Doyle, KJ4NRN. He's 15 years old and most of his family are also licensed amateur radio operators. He recently went

with the YDXA to the TI5KD QTH in Cost Rica to experience being on the other side of the pile-up.



Three SEDXC members (Joe Blackwell – AA4NN, Don Nesbitt – N4HH, and Jerry Rosalius – WB9Z) leave for Swains Island at the end of August. Tom Harrell – N4XP is a member of their Support Team. Details are at <http://www.nh8s.org>

Joe has graciously agreed to tell us about this DXpedition at a 2013 meeting.

73, Wey - K8EAB ...

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No Secretaries or Treasures Report this month.

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## Activities Manager Report:

As many of you know, Ian Kahn, KM4IK, has taken another position of employment and had to relinquish his role as Activities Manager. Good luck Ian in the new job.

Bill Tempel, AA4OC, has accepted the position. Let us all welcome Bill as our new Activities Manager.



The next event on the calendar will be the Stone Mountain Hamfest held November 3 - 4, 2012 at the Lawrenceville Fairgrounds. We will set up a table, with banner, membership forms, video display and QSL collections and will, hopefully, have Bill, N4NX, available for DXCC and other award card check. We will discuss this in detail in the October meeting. I will need your support to man the table and show the crowd what a great club the SECXC is!! We will only have the table up on Saturday, November 3, 2012. If you want to help man the table, please let me know at the meetings, or email me at [aa4oc@arri.net](mailto:aa4oc@arri.net).

73,  
Bill

AA4OC

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We always like to give you a heads-up when any of our members are headed out on a DXpedition. Here is the latest from Bob Allphin, K4UEE. (No, it is NOT Navassa).

G3SXW, G4IRN, K4UEE will enjoy a lightning tour of the Balkans for three days. They hope to QRV from LZ, YU, Z3 and 9A between Sep 18th-21st. . We will each sign LZ etc./home-call with CEPT licenses, using the Elecraft K2.

So, keep a sharp receiver tuned for this mini-QRP operation next month.

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From time to time we run a column by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, he writes and send out to newsletter and bulletin editors. This month we present a column that may be of interest to MAC owners who wish to do some schematic capturing.

Free Circuit Design Tools for Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I started looking for a schematic capture program so that I could easily generate some simple schematics for my upcoming Extra Class study guide. Since

I use a Mac as my main computer, I first asked on the Ham-Mac mailing list if anyone knew of a good one. I got several recommendations, including:

- Diptrace (<http://www.diptrace.com/>),
- Eagle (<http://www.cadsoftusa.com/downloads/free-ware/?language=en>), and
- McCad (<http://mccad.com/>)

Eagle looked like a good choice, although several people mentioned that the user interface "left much to be desired."

Then, I remembered that I had OmniGraffle, which is a general-purpose diagramming tool. Googling around, I found several sets of electronic symbol libraries that could be used with OmniGraffle. I installed them, and generated a couple of figures for the study guide section that discusses T-network and pi-network filters. It was a reasonably good solution to my problem.

#### A Web solution

A couple of days ago, though, someone on the local Maker mailing list, pointed me towards CircuitLab (<https://www.circuitlab.com/>), an online schematic capture tool and circuit simulator. I haven't tried the circuit simulation yet, but the schematic capture tool is really easy to use. It's much easier to use for drawing circuit diagrams than OmniGraffle.

Another benefit is that it doesn't matter what computer you're using. Because it runs in a Web browser, it doesn't matter whether that browser is running on a Mac or a PC or even a Linux box.

If you set up an account, you can save circuits to your "workbench." To get you started, there are some sample circuits, such as the 555 timer circuit shown in Figure 1. There's also some decent documentation and a forum where you can discuss circuits and get some help.

Finally, the price is right, too. It looks like using CircuitLab is completely free. I

couldn't find any pages that required payment.

NOTE: You can find the image, i.e. Figure 1, to go along with this article at <http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/circuitlab-example-255x300.png>.

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Please send any news information or articles you would like to submit to the bulletin to:

Jim, K4DLI at [k4dli@earthlink.net](mailto:k4dli@earthlink.net)

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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.

**DX COMMUNICATION FREQ.**

**Simplex 147.54**

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

**The club is now using the Repeater on  
145.410, down 600, for chatting and real time  
DX announcements.**

**Join the group there. No tone required**

**SEDXC WEBPAGE**

**[www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)**

**SEDXC REFLECTOR [sedxc@contesting.com](mailto:sedxc@contesting.com)**