



Bulletin



August 2018

From the Pres

Dick K5TF

I hope that this “spotless” summer has been kind to everyone DX-wise. The Daily DX Propagation summary for July reported 121 sun-spotless days for the year, 57% of 2018 days through July 31. The various indexes that measure solar activity reflect “inactivity”, and they are lower than a year ago! There is DX to be had, however, for those who watch the bands. July, for me, produced 59 non-contest QSOs with 39 DXCC entities in 5 Continents. Forty meters accounted for over half of the contacts followed by 20 meters for a third of them, and even a couple each on 10 and 80 meters – all CW, an OCF wire antenna, and 100 watts. FT-8 has been the mother lode of exotic DX on all bands as reflected on the DX clusters, and as reported by members using that mode. So continue to enjoy this exciting aspect of our hobby, and never give up hope for the next cycle to begin.

Ben Franklin said “In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes”. And Will Rogers added, “The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn’t get worse every time Congress meets”. With those thoughts in mind, have you considered what will happen to your ham station after you die? Have you arranged for its orderly disposition, or will you just leave that for your family to deal with? Steve, K4ELI, will

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Veep’s Report

This Month’s Meeting

Date/Time: **Thursday August 16th @ 7:30 PM**

Location: Rich Auditorium, Piedmont Hospital
Details at www.sedxc.org

Program Title: **Ham Radio Estate Planning**
Speaker: **Steve K4ELI**

Steve has had recent experience in helping the family of a SK divest the ham equipment. He has also written an article for QST on the subject. This is a topic of interest to us all no matter our age.



Huntsville Hamfest August 18, 19

Info: <http://www.hamfest.org>

LIFE IS SIMPLE



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provide helpful guidelines on this topic in our August 16th program from recent first-hand experience. Please plan to attend, as each of us will face this as hams.

In closing, thanks to suggestions and input from many of you, we have an exciting and full slate of programs in place for the fall and even into the new year. I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming meetings.

73 es gud DX,

Dick K5TF❖

Treasurer's Journal

Checkbook Balance as of July 31, 2018: \$11,023.

Proposed budget for new fiscal year:

Holiday Party	\$1,000
Picnic	250
IT/Web	75
Certificates	100
Mailing	30
Hamfest Tables	100
Insurance	200

73,

Jeff K1ZN❖

Announcements

None at this time—Editor.



LOTW Support for CQ WAZ

ARRL and CQ magazine have announced the launch, effective immediately, of Logbook of The World (LoTW) support for CQ's Worked All Zones (WAZ) Award program. The goal of the project, under way since last year, has been to create the proper technical support system to enable radio amateurs to submit LoTW confirmations for WAZ credit, and that has been accomplished, CQ and ARRL said in a joint statement. LoTW already supports CQ's WPX Award program. Info: <http://www.arri.org/news/lotw-support-for-cq-worked-all-zones-waz-award-goes-live>

Editor's Note: I can recall the thrill of getting VU2PAI a few years ago to complete the last zone I needed for WAZ. Packaging up the QSL cards and sending them off was a little scary. The LoTW support of this award is wonderful collaboration between ARRL and CQ organizations.

Ducie Island

2018



VP6D

October 20 – November 3.

Many of us already have VP6, but isn't it cool to work them on a different mode or band?

Info: <https://vp6d.com/>

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SEDXC Webpage: www.sedxc.org

SEDXC Chat Room: details on webpage

SEDXC Reflector: details on webpage

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Around the Shack

Hal N4GG



The Lowly Folded Dipole

My first antenna, strung up between my shack's attic window and a nearby tree, was a 15 meter folded dipole. That was 1961 and I am still using folded dipoles 57 years later. In those days, novice class licensees got a slice of 80, 40 and 15 meters – all CW – to hone their skills for one year. The novice license was non-renewable, encouraging licensees to learn the fundamentals and advance to a higher-class license.

1961 was pre-cable TV and 300 ohm "TV Twinlead" was what everyone used to connect TV sets to TV antennas. The stuff was inexpensive and plentiful and made a nice transmission line for ham radio purposes. My first folded dipole was made of TV Twinlead and was fed with TV Twinlead. One nice property of folded dipoles is they present an impedance of approximately 300 ohms, resulting in a perfect or near-perfect match for a 300 ohm transmission line. Another is that TV Twinlead and more modern equivalents are parallel-wire transmission lines that have much lower loss than coax. Where the 300 ohm feedline comes to the ground or shack, a 6:1 balun provides a match to 50 ohm coax. 6:1 baluns are no longer difficult to make or buy, thanks to the advent of wide-band ferrite cores. 6:1 baluns are available from several manufactures - I buy mine from CWS Bytemark. Their 6:1 baluns are about half the price of similar units sold elsewhere and they handle 1500W fine. (Model BAL-300, \$75.).

Back to 1961: As a kid with no money, I only had a vague idea that 300 ohms wasn't a great load for my DX-20, and I just shoved one side of the 300 ohm transmission line into the center of the transmitter's SO-239 and connected the other side to the chassis. I had never heard of a balun and I didn't have a PL-259, so I took the direct approach. It loaded up and worked fine – vacuum tube transmitters were very forgiving.

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Around the Shack (cont.)

So, why would we want folded dipoles in today's era of enlightenment?

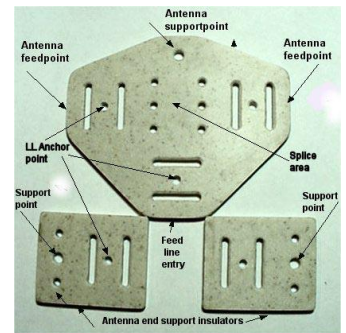
- They are broadband: much more so than a half-wave dipole made with wire. The 2:1 SWR bandwidth of an 80 meter dipole at 60 feet is 140 KHz (at 50 ohms) vs. 240 KHz for a folded dipole matched with a 6:1 balun. Also, the folded-dipole match through a 6:1 balun comes out at 50 ohms vs. a half-wave dipole which presents an impedance of 75 ohms at resonance and is not an ideal match for 50 ohm coax or transmitters.
- A properly built dipole has a balun at the feedpoint and coax hanging down, both of which are heavy. Using 300 ohm Twin lead negates the need for the balun at the top, is much lighter, and has lower loss than a coax feedline.
- Folded dipoles are not resonant on their third harmonic, unlike half-wave dipoles. That's good news and bad news. Half-wave dipoles work on odd harmonics as well as their fundamental frequency – a 40 meter dipole works fine on 15 meters. A 40 meter folded dipole will not work on 15 meters and that's too bad if it's something you want. An advantage for those of us who run on two bands at once in contests, or even chase DXpeditions on two bands at once, is the mutual coupling between antennas is less by a large amount if your dipoles are folded. You can transmit on a 40 meter folded dipole and listen on 15 meters on another folded dipole close to the transit antenna and not experience overload; something you can't do with half-wave dipoles. This can come in handy in any multi-transmitter setup – including Field Day.

[The Wireman](#) sells some handy parts for making sturdy folded dipoles, as well as 300 ohm Twin lead for the transmission line and 450 ohm window line for the folded dipole. Their part #804 "CQ Folded Dipole Insulator Kit" (See the Figure) is worth many times the \$14.95 they charge. It provides a high strength center insulator for connecting the dipole to the transmission line, and two end insulators for supporting the ends. Window line is notoriously difficult to terminate mechanically such that it won't fail due to wind-induced fatigue. The Wireman #804 is the answer to that problem.

For those of us resigned to having a "wires in the woods" antenna farm, folded dipoles should be consideration.

73,

Hal N4GG❖



DXpedition Funding Requests

None at this time.