



# Bulletin



August 2020

## From the Prez



Dick K5TF

Earlier this year I took my 58-year-old Vibroplex Original bug down off the shelf and dusted it off, readjusted it and cleaned the contacts, and with a bit of work have become proficient with it again. I confess that it had not been used since 1964 when I acquired my first electronic keyer. What a pleasure to hear “my own” fist again, and often to be complimented by the station with whom I am in contact. I’ve also been regularly on the air with my battery-powered K2 at 5 watts from the back porch, having a lot of fun and usually a nice chat with the ham on the other end. It’s also nice to go out to the mailbox and find a QSL or two from those contacts. Both of these efforts have garnered numerous enjoyable QSO’s which are a refreshing alternative to the often “5NN TU” QSO’s of a minute’s duration or less that fill my log.

*Cont. on p. 2*

## This Month’s Meeting

**Date/Time:** Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom Telemeeting

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

**Topic:** Life on Pitcairn Island

**Speaker:** Greg Marco W6IZT

## VP’s Corner



Mike ND4V

Thanks to everyone who endured the Club Log presentation last month. Hopefully you have had a chance to explore some of its features.

Six-meter season appears to have come to a sudden halt. But as that door closes, sunspots have started to appear. There is hope that DX conditions will steadily improve.

Zoom in this month (August) for a look at ham radio and other facets of life on Pitcairn Island. Gregg Marco W6IZT will tell us about his trip with the group to the island.

Bob Allphin, K4UEE will take us to the Marquesas in September.

In October, Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC will tell us a bit about the IOTA program and some of his challenges while activating remote islands (TXØA/TXØM, VE3LYC/KL7 – NA-150, and K7TRI)

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25 Years Ago in SEDXC

## ***From the Prez (cont.)***

Thanks go to Mike K4PI for keeping us up to date on 6M DXing this season. And to Chaz W4GKF for his fine work with respect to our Zoom meeting format during this difficult year.

73,

DICK K5TF❖

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*This space intentionally left blank--Editor*

## **Around the Shack de N4GG**



### **It Can't Be Done!**

I read a clever trope the other day about dark emitting diodes. They are similar to light emitting diodes (LEDs) except they emit dark – or suck light depending on your viewpoint. The article says you can make one by hooking up an LED backwards. I've hooked LEDs up backwards and can confirm no light comes out – not even a little; it really is dark! I also know if you push too much forward current through an LED it will stop emitting light and go back to making dark. It's been postulated that dark moves faster than the speed of light – since it was dark before the light got there.

Dark emitting diodes may not be available yet, but some things that were stated to be impossible years ago are now commonplace. We take these “impossible” things for granted. These are things the experts, professors, deep-thinkers and aficionados not only said could not work, or exist – they went to blackboards and wrote the equations to prove it. Lots of learned papers and PhD theses have been written “proving” the limits of what's possible - only to be disproved later. Do you have to give back your PhD degree when some kid comes up from the basement with a working model of a machine that does what you “proved” was impossible?

A running gag where I worked: “Sure it works in practice, but does it work in theory?”

Here are two of my favorite “it can't work” ideas – one directly related to Amateur Radio.

### **Long Range Communications**

Back in Marconi's day, spanning the Atlantic with RF seemed nearly impossible. Marconi claimed to do it in 1901 and by 1903 was doing it regularly, but there were problems. He could only do it at night. It took giant antennas and huge amounts of power. Marconi was working with “long waves” - frequencies below today's AM broadcast band.

*Cont. on p. 4*

## SEDXC OFFICERS

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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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## VP Corner (cont.)

November and December program slots are still open. If you have a recommendation for a program, please pass it along and we will see if we can make it happen.

73 es gud DX!

Mike ND4V ❖

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## Treasurer's Journal

Balance on hand as of 8/1: \$14,923.81 after a single expenditure of \$29.98 for "Zoom" rental.

Please review the DXpedition request for JXØX that is attached.

73 and stay safe,

Jeff K1ZN ❖



No major events in August, but check out Contest Corral  
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2020/August%202020%20Corral.pdf>  
for state QSO Parties that are always fun--*Editor*

## ***Around the Shack (cont.)***

The experts of the day were positive it was not possible to pile on enough power into unimaginably big antennas to get very far during daylight. Also, everybody knew that the higher you went in frequency the shorter the distance the waves traveled. You could run your own experiments and prove it. Long wave signals seemed to follow the curvature of the earth to some degree – they certainly made it over the next hilltop – somehow. Higher frequencies appeared to only work line-of-sight. RF communication in 1905 was simply a brute-force activity. More power, more antenna, lower and lower frequency gave more distance – that was it.

By 1912 the QRM between hams, commercial stations and the navies of the world was so fierce below 1 MHz that regulations were imposed. Ham radio was nearly killed outright at that point – who needed a bunch of amateurs making QRM when shipping companies and the navies needed the airwaves? Remember, many lives were saved in April, 1912 when Marconi Company operators aboard the Titanic sent out an SOS (actually, in those days it was CQD: CQ-Distress). A compromise was reached allowing ham radio to continue, but the hams were relegated to the useless wavelengths of 200 meters and down (1.5 MHz and up). Ham interest fell for a few years following 1912 – who wanted to have their range so badly limited?

Meanwhile, a self-taught engineer and mathematician named Oliver Heaviside theorized, in 1902, that a layer of charge might exist well above the earth's surface. Heaviside was ridiculed and his preposterous idea ignored by the scientific establishment. That is until hams discovered the practical use of the ionosphere in 1923. Nobody laughed at Heaviside after that.

Hams got the last laugh. The useless frequencies above 1.5 MHz they were “stuck with” turned out to be the most useful frequencies of all. Long distance RF communication in daylight – thought impossible – became commonplace. The experts were wrong.

The book *200 Meters and Down*, by Clinton DeSoto, was first published in 1936 and is still published today by the ARRL. It is a must-read for every ham. It's easy to read and exciting. It tells the story of how ham radio almost came to be outlawed and the efforts to keep it legal. You can buy it from the ARRL for \$15.95.

### **LEDs**

LEDs are items that, every step of the way, were not thought practical and in some versions not possible. A feel for how far-fetched the idea of a diode that would emit photons was is how long it took anyone to make one. The first LED-like device was actually demonstrated in 1927 – when semiconductors were not understood. In the early 1960s, as transistors started to replace vacuum tubes, semiconductors began to be understood from a theoretical physics standpoint and the thought of light emitting semiconductors was born.

Unlike RF communication, where the experimenters were ahead of the physicists, LEDs came about with physics first and process engineering to following – with both communities proclaiming many times that they had gone about as far as they could go.

The first LEDs emitted miniscule amounts of light in the infrared. It took lots of current to get very little light – in the invisible part of the spectrum. So much current, that the diodes had to be pulsed – they would burn up if continuous current was applied. Eventually improvements in efficiency permitted a reasonable amount of light output at lower current and continuous operation was achieved. After the infrared diode came the Red LED.

It should be noted at this point that LEDs were and are something of a witches' brew of nasty elements and compounds. Early devices were made from Gallium-Arsenide (read: Arsenic). But there was lots of experimentation with Gallium Antimony, Indium Phosphide (read: Phosphorous), Silicon-Germanium and others. One-off lab curiosities had process engineers perplexed as to how such compounds could be produced safely, with high purity, at low cost and in some cases at high temperatures and pressures. It just didn't seem possible.

While Red LEDs were being sorted out the Green LED was invented and seemed literally impossible to build in quantity. There are now many different formulas for Green LEDs but all require more elements and/or compounds, that are tougher to create and control, compared to Red LEDs. It's a testament to process engineers that ways were found to build these parts for pennies each.

The penultimate LED turned out to be the Blue one. Physicist were emphatic that the tuning of LEDs from the infrared to red, to green, to yellow, were incremental improvements, but the basic physics simply would not stretch all the way to blue. A Blue LED was a highly desired item too – it was the last primary color. The light from a Red, a Green and a Blue LED could be mixed to produce any color, including White. The blue LED became the holy grail of electro-optics.

I've droned on long enough about LEDs. Blue LEDs came about and they did require a different physics approach than the others – but the impossible happened. Then the ultimate LED came about: White. Then impossible-to-ever-achieve efficiency was achieved and now we can buy White LED light bulbs for \$1.

The history of LEDs is covered well on WIKI – it's a good read.

As LEDs were developed a companion technology emerged in the form of laser diodes. At first these were described as an invention looking for an application. Applications were quickly found however. Red laser diodes became the basis for barcode scanners. Infrared laser diodes, thought of as nothing more than a historical stepping stone, became the part of choice for remote controls. Data storage density was greatly increased by the short wavelength of blue light from blue laser diodes, making things like the Blu-Ray DVD possible.

So, what are you working on that can't possibly work?

A Hint: It doesn't take a lab full of equipment or a degree in physics to invent a new antenna.

73,

Hal N4GG❖

## **DXpedition Funding Requests**

*See attached request for JXØX —Editor.*



DX-pedition JXØX  
 September 2021  
 Jan Mayen Island  
 IOTA EU-022  
 (71N 8W)

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Subject: JXØX DX-pedition Sponsor application to SEDXC

During three weeks, From **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 until October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, a group of preliminary four operators will be heading for Jan Mayen Island (71 degrees North), and during **14 days operation** be active using the already confirmed callsign **JXØX**. Jan Mayen and its surrounding sea waters became a Nature reserve some years ago, imposing heavy restrictions on where to setup a camp. Camping is strictly forbidden in the Nature reserve itself. Jan Mayen is also controlled by the Norwegian Armed Forces, and they authorize the camp setup. The QTH given by the Military will be on the western part of the island, Kvalrossbukta, which is also the best suitable location for North American contacts with unobstructed path across salt water.

The license is confirmed and we have all necessary permits from the Norwegian authorities to stay on Jan Mayen during the above-mentioned period.

We are presently in close negotiation with a number of shipowners using Polar-designed vessels. The preliminary plan is to leave from North Norway on September 15<sup>th</sup> (PM) and expect to reach Jay Mayen, 3 days later, depending on sea conditions. Set-up of our **tent camp** as well as antenna installations will take place on September 18th, and operation will start as soon as possible on a few bands, not later than 24 hours from arrival to the island. The Military have required the vessel to be stand-by outside Jan Mayen during the entire operation to ensure the safety of the operators. As we approach end of September and October, we are prepared to endure challenging weather conditions, as the winter storms are usually beginning in the second part of September or beginning of October.

### Operators:

Call	Name	Function	Modes
LA7GIA	Kenneth Opskar	Team-Leader / Operator	CW, DIGI, SSB
RA9USU	Dmitriy Zhikarev	Operator	CW, DIGI, SSB
DL5EBE	Dominik Weiel	Operator	CW, DIGI, SSB
SM6LRR (RM2D)	Mats Strandberg	Operator / Public relations	CW, DIGI, SSB

**RA9USU and RM2D were members of the "DX-Pedition of the Year 2020" – TI9A, LA7GIA is recipient of the Intrepid Spirit Award for his numerous one-man expeditions to Africa, DL5EBE is the Chairman of EUDXF and also participant in several First Class DX-peditions.**

For more details, see Appendix A

### Operating:

We will run three (3-4) stations simultaneously, aiming for 24/7 operation. Main modes will be CW, Digi and some SSB.

### Key Focus:

This expedition will have a **clear Low band focus (160, 80, 60, 40 and 30 meters).**

The attached statistics below, confirm the high need for Jan Mayen on Low Bands, with Global rating of **Most Wanted DXCC entity between # 21-42** (160 through 30 meters) The corresponding figures for Japan (Far East Asia) on the same bands are **Most Wanted DXCC entity between # 9-18!**

**Also very high need for JX in Japan - Far East Asia as such (#26 overall, #15 CW, #19 DIGI and somewhat lower for SSB, #77.**

As a result of extensive SSB usage from several previous operations, the overall figure for JX is not that low. Hence, we will focus mainly on low bands and the most desired modes of operation (CW and Digi). SSB will be operated but not the main focus.

**A geographical priority will for the given reasons be Japan** among a few others.

We nevertheless ensure that we will also be able to activate 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters but low band antennas will have clear priority. Also, other continents will needless to say be worked, but we are keen on following the propagation and utilize when the band is open to distant locations apart from Europe.

### QSO Target:

Based from previous JX operations and considering the sun spot minimum, we still aim to work 50000 QSOs. This will also be the first serious Digital mode effort in many years, and we anticipate that there will be a high demand for FTx contacts, while we will try to have 1 multi-channel station active, using Fox and Hound Mode. The dedicated CW ops with also good SSB skills, will ensure that the three CW/SSB stations will maximize the operation and yield high rates and utilize short band openings to distant locations with high amount of DX'ers needing the rare entity.

### DX Code of Conduct:

Needless to say, we will 100% support the DX Code of Conduct.

### Equipment:

Transceiver	Amplifier	Purpose
K3, TS 590S or equivalent	Expert 1.3 or equivalent	Main CW/SSB radio
K3, TS 590S or equivalent	Expert 1.3 or equivalent	Main CW/SSB radio
K3, TS 590S or equivalent	Expert 1.3 or equivalent	Main CW/SSB radio
K3, TS 590S or equivalent	Expert 1.3 or equivalent	Main CW/SSB radio
K3, TS 590S or equivalent	Expert 1.3 or equivalent	Spare/FTx

**Antennas:**

Band	Antenna
160 meter	Top loaded vertical on 18 m Spiderbeam pole (possibly x 2)
80 meter	1/4-wave vertical on 18-meter Spiderbeam pole
60 meter	1/4-wave vertical on glassfibre pole
40 meter	Single or 2 phased verticals (still under consideration)
30 meter	Single or 2 phased verticals (still under consideration)
20/17/15/12/10/(6) meters	2 x Hex beams on aluminum poles
RX	RX antenna type K9AY, SAL or DHDL and BOGs
Backups	Various backup antennas, also backup masts and poles

**Jan Mayen on Most Wanted List LOW BANDS View (Clublog July 2020)****Worldwide****North America****Japan (Far East Asia)**

BAND	Place	Band	Place	Band	Place
160	#24	160	#9	160	#12
80	#26	80	#11	80	#9
40	#42	40	#17	40	#18
30	#21	30	#19	30	#12

**Jan Mayen on Most Wanted List CONTINENT View (Clublog July 2020)****Worldwide****North America****Japan (Far East Asia)**

Mode	Place	Mode	Place	Mode	Place
ALL	#69	ALL	#63	ALL	#26
CW	#21	CW	#16	CW	#15
SSB	#132	SSB	#114	SSB	#77
DIGI	#22	DIGI	#20	DIGI	#19

**Logs:**

We will use OQRS from Clublog after we returned from Jan Mayen. There will be no Internet access on the island for upload.

**QSL-cards**

All QSL via OQRS.

LOTW will be uploaded ASAP (within 1 month from the end of the expedition) to sponsors.

LOTW for the rest of the log will be uploaded 6 months after the end of the expedition.

Bureau QSL cards will be sent 12 months after the end of the expedition.

Our QSL manager is UA3DX

Nick I. Averyanov

Cvetnoj bul, 9-130,

Vlasikha, Moscow obl. 143010

Russia

### **Sponsoring:**

With this letter, we ask you to kindly consider sponsoring our DX-expedition. As a DX Foundation Sponsor, we will ensure that each sponsor will get:

- SEDXC logo & clear publicity on our QSL cards and on JX0X Homepage
- A story of our DX-expedition for your Club journal/magazine, if required
- QSL Card Services for the Club Members will be arranged, if required
- Group Photo with your DX Foundation Club Banner and/or flag
- Offer to send SEDXC flyers with the direct QSL cards

### **Our Budget:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>USD</b>
<b>Sum Expenses</b>	<b>93100</b>
Flight tickets	0
Vessel	64000
Generators & fuel	5800
JX0X license	100
Tents & material	3000
Security transport	2000
Food & water	2000
Emergency situation	1000
Toilet & Kitchen	3000
Waste handling	400
First aid, medical	500
Power & lights	500
Tools & material	800
Heating	1000
Antennas & coaxial cables	2000
Radio, filters	0
Amplifier	0
Computers	0
Pelican cases and watertight covers	2000
QSL	0
Currency risk	3000
Misc.	2000
<b>Sum Income</b>	<b>93100</b>
Operator fees	40000
Support clubs & foundations	37000
Support individual DX'ers	10500
Sales of equipment after the expedition	5600

### **Paypal:**

Our PayPal account is: [jx0x@la7gia.com](mailto:jx0x@la7gia.com)

### **Bank details:**

If you agree to sponsor our expedition, and PayPal is not a suitable solution, please let us know, and we will promptly send bank details to you.

Thank you beforehand for reading and evaluating our Sponsorship request. We hope that your DX Club will consider sponsoring our expedition. In case of request for more details or

Our official homepage is: [www.jx0x.com](http://www.jx0x.com)

Kind regards

Mats Strandberg, RM2D (SM6LRR)

P.O. Box 18

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RU-143080 RUSSIA

Email: [rm2d@icloud.com](mailto:rm2d@icloud.com)

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Whatsapp/Phone: +79150258381

## Appendix A

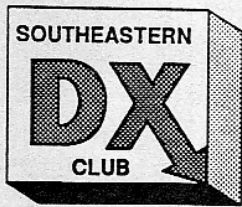
### Operator Experiences and data:

Call	LA7GIA
Name	Ken Opskar
Licensed since	1992
DX-expeditions	JX7GIA, 3C7A, 6O7O, 6O6O, TL8AO, TT8KO, TN5E, D67GIA, 7Q7GIA x 2
Contesting	LA7GIA, LC7M, LN8W
Modes	CW, DIGI, SSB
Member of	Board member EUDXF and LA-DX-GROUP, CWOPS, ARRL, RCC

Call	RA9USU
Name	Dmitry Zhikharev
Licensed since	1989
DX-expeditions	1U4UN, 3V6T, 3V8BB, 3V8SS, 4O3A, 4U1UN, 4U1WB, 4U6ØUN, 4U7ØUN, 4U1VIC, 5A1A, 5A5A, 5A7A, 5B/AJ2O, 5B4AJC, 6Y1LZ, 7O2A, 7O6T, AH2/N2OW, CN2AA, CN2NN, DU1/VK3FY, E3ØFB, E31A, FS/N2OW, FS5KA, JY6ZZ, K1LZ, K1TTT, P33W, PJ7/N2OW, R1ØØR, RL3A, RT8T, RU3A, S21ZBB, S21ZBC, STØR, SU8DRM, SUØERA, TI5/N2OW, TI5W, TI9/RA9USU, TS2A, TS6A, TS9A, VP8STI, VP8SGI, Y82N, TI9A
Contesting	All major contests.
Modes	CW, DIGI, SSB
Member of	SRR, ARRL, RRC

Call	DL5EBE
Name	Dominik Weiel
Licensed since	1983
DX-expeditions	7O1YGF, 8Q7DW (2010, 2012), CT3M, DAØIMD, DAØBHV & DLØKBM & DM5ØIOTA (EU-047), DAØLGT, JWØK, OK8EBE, R4BE, RI1ON & UE8ØAR (EU-066), SV2ASP/A (guest), T33A, ZL7II, ZS9V (AF-064)
Contesting	CT3M, DAØHQ, DAØI, ZL6QH
Modes	CW, DIGI, SSB
Member of	Board member EUDXF (President), DARC, CTARC, GDXF, HSC, VHSC, SHSC, RRC, RRDXA, Club Arktika, RZ4AWB

Call	RM2D (SM6LRR)
Name	Mats Strandberg
Licensed since	1980
DX-expeditions	4S7LRG, 5B/SM6LRR, XV2LRR, XV2D, RM2D/Ø, 4U7ØUN, XV9D, TI9A
Contesting	SK6RR, SLØCB, RL3A, RM5A, RTØC, OH4A, SK3W, P33W, UP2L, OH5Z, 7S2W,
Modes	CW, DIGI, SSB
Member of	FOC, CWOPS, HSC, EUDXF, RRC, Club Arktika, RCC, SMHSC, SKCC, RCWC



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB

August 1995

## NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, August 15th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House  
in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL, President**

Well, the 5A1A operation has come and gone. I hope everyone who needed it worked through the pileups. Now we'll just have to hope it counts. Wish I could get a 3W or a JT in my log. As low as the sunspot count is now, it's a tough time DX'ing for us little pistols! Speaking of guns, did anyone notice the feature picture in QRZ DX of Bob, K4UEE, Val, N4RJ, and Bill, N4NX posing with Luis, ZP5JCY/ZPØY? Looked like Luis was wearing an SEDX pin.

I noticed a few SEDX club members listed prominently in recent contest scores. Neal, AE6E, operated at WS4F and took the continent as a multi-op entry in the ARRL 10 meter contest. Steve must have a nice station in Cornelia, though Neal seems to do well anywhere. Other notable entries in the 10 meter test include John, K4BAI, who took Georgia in the mixed-mode, low power category. Tad, NZ3I, took second in the same category and Paul, AD4NQ, needs to explain the 526 Q's for third place. Albert, W4BTZ, had a respectable score for second in Georgia in the CW, high power category. The Georgia Tech radio club, W4AQL, took third in the continent as a high power multi-op entry in the ARRL RTTY Roundup and Roy, N4ONI, was second in the state with high power. Be sure to congratulate these guys when you see them.

By now most of you know that Ken Byers, K4TEA was inducted into the SEDX Club Hall of Fame and that Jim Stafford, W4QO won the W4NT Award. Congratulations to both of you. Both awards were well deserved.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting!

73, Steve, KR4DL

## FROM THE VP

by **Sonny Marsh, KE4LDJ, VP**

Each month in this column, I will try to announce the program for the next meeting. Sometimes people cancel after press time so please bear with me.

Satellites and such have always fascinated me. I believe we have three orbiting satellites at this time; RS-12, RS-15 and Oscar-13. A new satellite, Phase 3D, is being assembled in a clean room operation near the Orlando International Airport. Plans call for it to be sent into orbit aboard an Araine-5 rocket in April 1996.

We will be fortunate to have Mr. Terry Gibbs, N4TYP, at our August 15th meeting. Terry has been involved with satellite communications for six years. He will discuss equipment, antennas, etc., and will show a video depicting some stations of interest.

Hope to see you all there!

73 Sonny, KE4LDJ

## MINUTES, SEDXC MEETING 7/15/95

**-Buddy Harrell, W4OUN, Sec.**

### Minutes From July Meeting Held 7/15/95

No minutes this month, I was unable to attend the banquet. See you next month.

-73 Buddy, W4OUN

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.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

# FROM THE INTERNET

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

-ODDS & ENDS

Balance 5/1/95 (Checkbook)	\$2505.40
Income:	
Misc.	\$3110.50
Expenses:	
160M Plaques	950.00
Tape duplication	20.64
Kansas City Club (Dayton)	250.00
Atlanta Hamfest table	30.00
Banquet	752.50
Pins	796.22
NK4U (Hamfest prize)	27.00
Bank Charges	11.08
Total Expenses	<u>\$2,837.44</u>
Balance Checking 7/31/95	<u>\$2,778.46</u>

Date: Fri, 28 Jul 1995 21:09:19 -0400  
 From: al541@detroit.freenet.org (Jim Vining) To:  
 topband@frontier.net  
 Subject: TopBand: BC Special  
 Cc: DX@ve7tcp.ampr.org  
 Sender: owner-topband@frontier.net  
 Precedence: first-class  
 Reply-To: al541@detroit.freenet.org (Jim Vining)

I am relaying to the DX community, a letter I received yesterday from George, W8UVZ. I hope that he doesn't mind me posting it on the DX boards (I called him, but he was out of town!). I just thought it might be of interest to other Low Band DX'ers out there !!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Jim,

For some time, WØCD, K8GG, and I have been building and supplying low band verticals to DXpeditions which we call the "Battle Creek Special". These 48 foot verticals are designed for 40, 80 & 160 Meters to compliment a tri-band beam normally taken on DXpeditions. Our "Battle Creek Special" has been used by DXpedition groups who have operated as 3Y5X, 8Q7AJ, VP8SSI, VP8SGP, 3YØPI, YKØA, AH1A and others. We hope you were able to work several of these stations on the Low Bands.

While Charlie, George and I have footed the cost (about \$300 apiece complete in wooden shipping crates) to build and offer 4 of these verticals to the DX community, we have asked those we can identify as being keenly interested in working Low Band DX in the USA and Canada to help us with the shipping and maintenance part of the outlay. We've needed funds to air freight these verticals to Europe and Africa as well as all over the USA. Extensive repair costs from damage during Antarctic DXpeditions like VP8SSI and 3YØPI were necessary as well. A group of about 30 Low Band DX'ers were solicited twice and generously provided these funds over the past 4 years. Rather than going to that well again, we are asking a new group of DX'ers whom we hope share that love of Low Band DX.

(continued p3)

Income includes renewal dues, new members, and miscellaneous sales of shirts and pins at the Hamfest. Some of this income was used for the purchase of prizes for the banquet. Even though the bank account shows a healthy balance, there are still bills expected for the printing of the Newsletter (June and August) and new shirts (which are on order).

And then there is the \$800+ which is earmarked for the Cluster Fund. The cost of the 160M plaques was excessive and the balance was credited to the outgoing officers' plaques. There may still be a small balance to be paid.

But, with all the gloom and doom, the club continues to recruit new members and a 'sellout' is expected of the latest orders of pins and shirts by Kiyoshi, AE6EZ, during his trip to Japan.

See you at the meeting.

73, Nancy NK4U

**GET THOSE 160 METER  
 ANTENNAS READY!  
 NOW'S THE TIME...**

## DX TIDBITS

**-Rick, N4XMX**

(continued from p2) Currently, we have one "Battle Creek Special" vertical with the group to CEØ Easter Island (and Juan Fernandez?) in September. And another vertical will be shipped in a few days to KØIR and the VKØ Heard Island DXpedition. We have a request from WB2DND for one for a planned KH9 trip (and possibility of A61) and intend to supply him with the one just received from the VP8SGP group. And finally, one vertical remains with Chris, ZS6EZ for use in Africa. A wire version of the "Battle Creek Special" is located with 5Z4FO for his upcoming transfer to 5X this fall.

If you would care to donate to our shipping and maintenance fund, please use the enclosed SASE. We appreciate your help to maintain what we think, is a worthwhile project. Sorry, there's no tax exempt status here - just a low key operation to assist DXpeditions with a decent vertical to give serious attention to Low Band operations. Thanks. 73  
W8UVZ

George Taft  
271 Parkshore Drive  
Battle Creek, MI 49017  
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I am sure that the guys could use all the help we can give them in helping to provide us with good signals to hear on the Low Bands.

Gud Luck in the Pile-ups ..... Jim - KC8PG.....

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## BEEPS DE K2UFT

**-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director**

Your August opportunity is still available if you act fast. Kioshi, AE4EZ (JAØBSL) needs your articles and pictures if possible of any DXpedition you've been on in the past for use at the Japanese Ham Convention. Get the material to Kioshi before August 15 so that it may accompany him on his trip to Japan. Kioshi's business phone is 396-5100 and you can also FAX him the info (get the # from Kioshi.)

As for future activities, I am planning to feature a band and mode of the month, something appropriate for the season and/or upcoming contests, with appropriate certificate(s) to the winners, plus there will be an overall achievement award for the 95-96 year. Stay tuned and plan on trying to beat out Phil, W4GTS to these awards.

-73 Dick, K2UFT

Last month I recounted the trials of getting up something I could point, even if not very far off the ground. Just in time as 5A1A fired up. I had planned a short vacation the weekend they came up. Fortunately, I was able to work them 20m CW the Friday night before I left. I could then take a four day vacation without feeling terrible! When I got back, they did some SSB but mostly CW and mostly on 20m. I do not dupe on same band and mode so I hung around off and on looking for other opportunities. They zigged when I zagged. Long story short, the first contact was the only one. If it counts, I really don't care!

Good fortune was also smiling on me when 3V8BB popped up on 20m SSB four nights later. 14.205 simplex and in the evening! He would go by numbers, listen and work three at a time. What a mess. Now the only problem is that the QSL route is in Serbia... To round out the evening, a 5T on 20m CW took only a couple of calls. Makes all the work putting up the beam (at 30', remember) worth it. Only a few more in that area of the world to go. (TT, TN, ST, 7O, YK, EP and SV/A) The rest I need mostly have either a VK9 or VKØ prefix. (Don't forget the privy freq, Verne...)

But, if everything was easy, it wouldn't be very challenging, would it? You can always tell a DX'er by looking at his or her radio. If the labeling on the A/B, A=B and TF Set buttons hasn't been worn off, someone hasn't been in very many pileups!

Anyone following the Internet discussion (??) about Scarborough and Pratas would understand that discovering and activating a new one can be less than clear cut. I will not give any opinions since I did not work either of them!

Speaking about the Internet, there has been some remarkable talk about the future of the DXCC program in the next few years. Rather than spread rumors, I will wait until we hear more from some of the official sources. The Internet is an amazing thing. Information good and bad can be spread in a hurry. The one thing it isn't, is dull.

-CU in the pileups