



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB

August 1997

## NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, Aug. 19th, 7:30PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

## PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

-Paul Hansen, W6XA, President

Each one of us owes a tremendous amount of gratitude to our outgoing President and vice-president. Steve Schmidt and Paul Pescitelli have served way beyond the call of duty. Please take a moment next time you see them to say, "thank-you". I am saying it now!

I can only wish my efforts in the coming year will be half as successful. One thing for sure is that I don't have Steve's skills to write those entertaining stories of my DX'capades. Just the facts-ma'am. That's pretty much my style. Anyone wishing to contribute should know in advance that your stories will be more than welcome. Please, please send something in.

Another thing for sure is that I cannot single-handedly man Dayton's hospitality room or the booth at the Atlanta Hamfest. It is going to have to be a more shared effort if the club wants to continue these traditions. If it falls solely on me or my VP, it just won't get done. When it comes time to take volunteers for some of these duties, I don't want to see the backs of everybody's head like we've all seen recently. Put up those hands and chip in!

The Southeaster DX Club is on the verge of dying. Activity and support levels are appalling. Part of the problem, in my humble opinion, is attitude. There seems to be the perception that only DXCC members are qualified to be members in the SEDXC. In support of that position I must agree that in my experience, DX'ers and Contesters have demonstrated themselves to be the elite among the Amateur Radio community. But, being elite and being elitist are two distinctly different positions. Too many really excellent operators have been excluded from this club by an

elitist attitude and it hurts us.

It hurts us because we are not exposed to improvements and innovations in operating technique continuously being developed by avid contest operators. It hurts us because we tend to display an exclusionary attitude that alienates potential members who may not be actively seeking DXCC standings but success in slightly different arenas. Mostly, it hurts us since we have become stagnate and stale as a club in a time when we should be actively promoting ourselves as the training ground and support field for any Amateur with a genuine interest "international Amateur Radio communications" to become more proficient in that endeavor. DXCC membership is something we are all proud of and should continue to promote but, not to the exclusion of those whose interest are devoted more towards contesting or developing more intimate friendships with Amateur Radio Operators in other countries. Not everything in life is, "559, QSL via the buro."

The Southeastern DX Club is on the eve of its 40th anniversary. Its direction must change to meet the needs of different times. Our goal has to become that of a resource, not a reward. We cannot expect improvements in operator skills and DX'ing if we continue to shrink from the challenge. Let us open the doors to become better teachers as well as better students. As a result we will all become better DX'ers.

In accordance with Article VII of the Constitution, publication of proposed amendments is included herein. Changes are in *italics*.

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## LAST ISSUE IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED!!

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.

(continued from p 1)

**Existing:**

Article I.  
Name and Purpose of the Club

- A. The name of the Club shall be Southeastern DX Club, with permanent headquarters in Atlanta, GA, and shall hereinafter be referred to as "the Club."
- B. The purposes of the Club shall be to promote fraternalism among Radio Amateurs of the World having a prime interest in international Amateur Radio communications and to assist members in achieving a higher standing in the ARRL DX Century Club.

Article II.  
Membership in the Club

- A. Membership in the Club shall be open to all Radio Amateurs holding an active Amateur License who are interested in international Amateur Radio Communication. Membership shall be in two classes:
1. Regular Members are those members who hold a valid post-World War 2 DXCC award, issued by the American Radio Relay League. Regular Members are entitled to all Club privileges including the right to vote and to hold office.
  2. Associate Members are those members who have not yet received membership in DXCC. Associate Members can neither vote nor hold Office. Immediately upon receipt of the DXCC award, an Associate Member instantly and automatically becomes a Regular Member.
- B. Membership dues shall be assessed by the Officers of the Club herein-after provided for, and shall be approved by a majority vote of the Regular Members present at open meeting, provided the total Membership has been notified by First Class Mail of the pending action at least seven days prior to said meeting.
- C. Candidates for Membership shall be accepted provided they have received a majority vote of the Regular members present in open meeting.

**Proposed:**

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B. Membership dues shall be assessed by the Officers of the Club herein-after provided for, and shall be approved by a majority vote of the Regular Members present at open meeting, provided the total Membership has been notified by First Class Mail of the pending action at least seven days prior to said meeting.

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(continued p 3)

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1. Regular Members are those members who hold a valid *Amateur Radio License of any class*. Regular Members are entitled to all Club privileges including the right to vote and to hold office.
2. Associate Members are those members who have not yet received *an Amateur Radio License*. Associate Members can neither vote nor hold Office. Immediately upon receipt of *an Amateur Radio License*, an Associate Member instantly and automatically becomes a Regular Member.

*B. Candidates for Membership shall be elected using the following procedure:*

1. *Candidates for Membership shall be sponsored by at least one Regular Member of the Club. The Candidate for Membership, the Candidate's sponsor, and a completed Membership application along with applicable dues shall be presented at a regularly scheduled Club meeting.*
2. *The application for membership will be read to the members present and the applicant will be introduced by the sponsor.*
3. *Notification of the application shall be published in the next succeeding newsletter.*
4. *Action on the application for Membership shall be taken at the next regular Club meeting. At least one of the applicant's sponsors must be in attendance. The applicant's attendance at that meeting is optional. A simple majority of the Regular Members present will be required to elect an applicant to Membership.*

*C. Membership dues shall be assessed by the Officers of the Club herein-after provided for, and shall be approved by a majority vote of the Regular Members present at open meeting, provided the total Membership has been notified by First Class Mail of the pending action at least seven days prior to said meeting.*

If the club enacts these changes, I will undertake to make welcome those who have felt alienated. Especially those whose interests are directed more towards contesting. I am hoping we can, at the very least, enjoy the presence of some representatives of the Southeastern Contest Club (to name only one) and I would like to see mutual support programs developed to each club's benefit. I would also like to develop a cadre of "DX Elmers" to show any newer members who might so desire, things like technique or skill or ethics which would serve to improve their DX'ing experience. This could only improve our experiences as well.

-73 Paul, W6XA



**<- CAN YOU NAME  
THIS HAM??**

## SEDXC MINUTES 7/97

### -Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Secretary Pro Tem

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM by President K4WA. The usual vocal introduction of each member was dispensed with but an attendance list was circulated. K2UFT was appointed to take notes in the absence of Secretary K4ODL. Minutes of the June meeting were approved as presented in the Club newsletter. There being no old business, we proceeded to new business and the election of officers for the 1997-1998 term.

A slate of officers was announced:

President: Paul Hansen, W6XA

Vice-President: Ernie Zingleman, KS4Q

Secretary: Rick Glisson, N4XMX

Treasurer: Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Activities Manager: Dick Bentley, K2UFT

Additional Positions:

Newsletter Editor: Rick Glisson, N4XMX

Membership Chairman: Paul Picatelli K4UJ

No additional nominations were received from the floor nor were there any volunteers to run for these offices. Nominations were closed and the above slate was unanimously approved. Announced were forthcoming expeditions to 5A1A, VK9W and KH7K.

Following the break and prize raffle, the evenings program was presented by Jeff, WB8HDD on his 1991 trip to VP5W with W4PRO and AA4NG. They still have 200 QSLs left if you havent sent your request in yet!

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## BEEPS DE K2UFT

### -Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

Congrats to our new slate of officers for the 97 - 98 season. Looking forward to lots of activity opportunities for club participation. Paul's already looking over the constitution to see if any improvements can be made.

1998 will be the 40th year of the Southeastern DX Club. What better time to get that certificate program off of my back burner and into reality. Its also the 70th anniversary of the Atlanta HamFestival and we need to think about some joint activity with those folks in June '98, perhaps a DX Dinner or even better, a DXPO? What do you think? Are you willing to help out? See you at the meeting.

73 Dick, K2UFT Activities Chairman

August 1997

## PART 2 of a Series (continued from last month) My Thoughts on Propagation de W/7 (Alias WOMHS)

I get an idea of an opening, then I come back to the menu and start checking certain paths into the area I think has possibility, and then make a decision as to what to do. 20M is the main day band these days, but there are tonza 15M openings that go wanting for use ... tons! When I see a 15M path show up, I jump on it: Call CQ !!!! and seldom do I go unrewarded! More often I am totally surprised with the Q, it comes out to be a RARE?Needed/good one! You gottum ona band all by yourself, you can conjure up a QSL card quicker from a chit/chat/ragchew than the hi/bye type QSO for sure. All you gotta do is learn the technique of where to put your CQ's.

I have been using MP (like version 1.5 or something) since 1987 I wanna say ... I don't have the more fancy one, don't need it! There is on thing that is the base secret to success: DO NOT USE WWV Flux Numbers! Ever! They do not give you the correct results. I like to put it like this: If the Texaco Tanker at a zillion tonz is making 20 knots and somebody sez "hard right, Roy!", it takes about two weeks and half the Pacific Ocean to turn the bugger! It does NOT respond instantly! Same with the ionoshere, it takes time (a large amount of energy) to pump up the ionosphere ... so if WWV gives you a F = 123 tomorrow, you go the the bands, you WILL NOT find 123 conditions! You find DISTURBED or anomolous conditions (another great treasure to play with!) but not "THE BANDS ARE HOT!" no way. What you use for flux or SS# is the AVERAGE, a smoothed AVERAGE is best, and you don't waste your time tuning to WWV! The model of MP I have does not do D-region absorption (it's a Region notta layer!) and the A-index on WWV is worth the trip to find out. It tells you of D-region loss which affect mostly low band conditions, like when Afr, or Ap is above 10, take up stamp collecting on the low bands! or go fishing!! (on the high bands!).

There is one parameter which is rarely reported and which is computed in my old version of MP and that is the E-cut off freq ... that freq at which the E-layer effectively prevents workable signals from reaching the F-layer. THIS IS THE EVIL (E=EVIL, gitit?) LAYER! FMUF is a horrible way to go ... without ECOF information FMUF info is most times totally WORTHLESS! How many times does FMUF show prop between your QTH and DX?

(continued next month!)