



# Bulletin



September 2020

## From the Prez



Dick K5TF

Hello, everyone.

Nothing special to report this month. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Zoom meeting on Thursday for a great presentation by Cezar VE3LYC.

73,

Dick K5TF ❖

## This Month's Meeting

**Date/Time:** Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom Telemeeting

**Info:** [September, 2020](#)

**Topic:** IOTA and Challenging Islands

**Speaker:** Cezar, VE3LYC

## VP's Corner



Mike ND4V

DX IS!

The fall contesting season is just around the corner and hopefully milder weather with it! It's time for shack and antenna maintenance before it gets really cold. Speaking of the change of seasons; I hope everyone will get their flu shots. No need to tempt the virus demons any more than necessary.

Many thanks to Gregg Marco, W6IZT for doing the program last month. I enjoyed the trip to Pitcairn Island. I had no idea that it was such a small island.

This month Cezar VE3LYC will talk about the technical aspects of the IOTA program but not going into deep details.



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## Treasurer's Journal

Balance on hand as of 9/1: \$15,618 after a single expenditure of \$56.96 for Zoom rental for 3 months.

73 and stay safe,

Jeff K1ZN ❖

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Check out Contest Corral <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2020/September%202020%20Corral.pdf> for state QSO Parties that are always fun. DX activities in September include:

10<sup>th</sup>: WAE Phone contest.

19<sup>th</sup>: There will be a huge amount of activity including SAS Activity CW, All Africa International DX and five (5) state QSO parties.

26<sup>th</sup>: CQ WW DX RTTY.

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## The Reading Report

I enjoy reading about DX clubs: their activities and projects. Often I get an idea for WU4B regarding a station change or an activity I would like to join.

This month the **Texas DX Society** announces their special event station K5DX/50 commemorating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Neat idea. Perhaps something like this would be of interest to SEDXC members. Check it out at <http://www.tdxc.net/bs2020/sep20.pdf>.

The September issue of the **Potomac Valley Radio Club** is huge (23 pages). Good article, with pictures, of the clubs Field Day at Home activities. Also station-related articles about raising a new tribander, Heathkit 220/221 Upgrades, and Remote Antenna Disconnect Devices. Check it out at [http://pvrc.org/Newsletters/2020\\_09.pdf](http://pvrc.org/Newsletters/2020_09.pdf)

Clark WU4B ❖

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## Around the Shack de N4GG



### How Many Tubes Did You Say?

This past year I briefly dabbled with “boat anchors,” something I had not done since those rigs were new.

With an urge (a pretty mild urge) to put my novice station back together for a trip down memory-lane, I put an SX-110, DX-20 and VF-1 on my look-to-buy list. It was something of a whim; I had low expectations of accomplishment. It made for a nice daydream.

To get the setup more complete I would need a straight key – I still had that from 1961 (Figure 1) and a Vibroplex Blue Racer if I wanted to get myself up to “General Class” circa 1962. By 1963 I had built a 150 watt amplifier from April, 1961 QST. In the article it ran a pair of 1625s – I opted for a pair of 807s – the same tube with a 6V filament instead of a 12V filament. The Fair Lawn, NJ town dump yielded a TV set power transformer that had a 6V winding for filaments and high voltage windings that were about right for B+. 807s cost next to nothing - a necessity since my sole revenue came from a small paper route. The amplifier article can be found in the QST archives.

I will spare you the details and summarize my nostalgia adventure:

- I saw a DX-20 at the Orlando hamfest and HAD to have it. I was told it was working fine. I got it home and discovered it had no tubes. Checking the power transformer I burned up my VOM. I'd forgotten about high voltage. I bought a new top-of-the-line (a life's investment) analog VOM with a 1,000 volt scale. It dawned on me my thousands-of-parts junk box contained NO PARTS for boat anchors. Interestingly, the DX-20 had two wiring errors. For 60 years it had never worked. W4AX provided the tubes I needed (thanks Mack). I got it on the air and made some contacts. I marveled at how simple it was and how good Heathkit's engineering was.

Cont. on p. 4

## SEDXC OFFICERS

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## Appointed Positions

### SEDXC Bulletin Editor

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### Membership Committee Chairman

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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.)

He will then relate some of the challenges associated with the last 2-3 expeditions he was on (TXØA/TXOM, VE3LYC/KL7 – NA-150, and K7TRI) – a part that will consist of a series of slides.

As in the past, our meeting will be virtual via Zoom. Instructions for joining the meeting are [HERE](#). I'll try to remember to get Chaz to do an e-blast to everyone with the click here link that makes it easy to join the meeting.

In **October** Bob Allphin, K4UEE will take us to the Marquesas Islands. I believe this trip was a departure from the tent and generator DXpeditions that we generally associate with Bob's travels.



If you have a program in mind that would be of interest to DXers or Contesters, shoot me a line at [nd4v@comcast.net](mailto:nd4v@comcast.net) and I'll try to make it happen.

73 es gud DX!

Mike ND4V❖

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

- I begged and borrowed crystals. Thanks N4DK and K5TF.
- I bought a VF-1 VFO just as someone gave me a second one for free.
- K8EAB tossed me a DX-40 to refurbish. That was fun and I had a VOM (the only test gear you need) to get it done. I made a few QSOs and returned it.
- I volunteered to get W4KLY's two-tube transmitter back on the air - one he had built 40 years ago that needed new filter capacitors and a little tweaking. I made some QSOs on 40 with Paul's transmitter, including one with a ZL. Output: 22 watts. My favorite QSO: Me: "Rig here OM is an MOPA, 6AG7 and 6L6." Reply: "I think you may be sending me tube numbers but I have no idea what that is."
- I gave away one of the VF-1s, then gave the DX-20, the second VF-1 and all the crystals to QRP aficionado W4QO.

At that point I lost interest but I had spent \$500 on a Begali bug as a replacement for the Blue Racer given me by W2MOF (sk) in 1962. I am using the Begali with modern gear and my proficiency is returning. I can now, once again, be identified by my fist – for the first time in 40 years.

So, what's the point of this month's column? I became amazed at how easy it is to get on the air with two tubes. The DX-20 had a 6CL6 oscillator and a 6DQ6 final. Paul Kelly's home-brew MOPA (master oscillator, final amplifier) uses a 6AG7 oscillator and a 6L6 output stage. I wrote in the present tense because Paul is making contacts with it as I write this. Add a one-tube Heathkit VF-1 VFO and you can operate anywhere on 10 through 80 meters. I even got the DX-20 onto the WARC bands without modification.

Here is a bit of nostalgia. I'd like to suggest reading about the Trans-Atlantic Tests of 1921, as described in QST, February, 1922. It's on-line in the QST archives. What was the first ham transmitter to reliably make it across the Atlantic and to later go on to shatter many distance records? It was an MOPA! The transmitter used a UV-204 tube as the oscillator and three more UV-204s in parallel as the output stage, for an output power of 1KW on 1.5 Mhz. I count the three tubes in parallel as one big tube in a 2-tube transmitter. The call sign was 1BCG; the station was in Connecticut. "Two tube transmitter" or "two transistor transmitter" does not necessarily mean QRP. Think about an entire transmitter, made with only two tubes, producing 1KW! I first read about it in the 1960s and still find it amazing. That transmitter was built 100 years ago.

My rig these days is an FTdx5000. Just one of the ICs in that rig could easily have 50,000 transistors in it and that rig is full of ICs.

A vacuum tube and a transistor are the same for this discussion. They are discrete devices that amplify or switch. That's it. You or I can make contacts with two transistors or two vacuum tubes, yet today's modern rigs use tens of thousands of them. The same goes for receivers. My SX-110 had six tubes in it (not counting the noise blanker tube). The noise blanker function added one more tube, a dual-diode type 6H6. The noise blanker in the 1959-designed SX-110 performs the same function in the same way with the same performance level as many current rigs do, except current rigs use god-knows how many parts and lines of code. We have come a long way, but have we gotten anywhere?



Figure 1. My first and only straight key. Used for code practice in 1960 and my Novice days (1961). Call sign WV2QPW. It is still used occasionally on the air. The heavy steel base was a gift from Frank Leonard, W2NPT, in early 1960.

K8EAB got his DX-40 as a gift. I got one of my VF-1s for free. Putting a 2-tube radio on the air can cost little or nothing. Try it if you get a chance. You may be surprised (or reminded) how much you can do with so little.

You may be rewarded too. I appreciate my FTdx5000, but I had more fun with my DX-20 this year.

In an area unrelated to Ham Radio I am working on an essay about wants and needs. Sure, we want the transceive function, low drift, an accurate frequency readout, etc. But do we need them? No. No we don't.

73,

Hal N4GG ❖

## **DXpedition Funding Requests**

*None at this time---Editor*



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

*THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB*

September 1995

## **NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION**

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

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL, President**

The first sunspot of the new solar cycle seems to have appeared in the northern latitudes of the sun. Greeted with some fanfare, the news is not immediately promising. An entry on the packetcluster indicated that the low point on the cycle was generally regarded as that point when "new" sunspots in the higher latitudes equaled the number of "old" sunspots around the sun's equator. Seems it'll likely be another year before we hit rock bottom. I'm already thinking of erecting a new 40/80/160 meter antenna. I think I'll need one to carry me through the next couple of years!

Speaking of antennas, we're approaching the "fall equinoctial period" as reported by CQ magazine's propagation section. In short, this means possibly improved propagation to the southern hemisphere, including South Asia, South Africa and the South Pacific, and improved long-path and grayline propagation. If you haven't burned the dust off your antennas lately, this may be a good time to do it. Just over the equinoctial horizon (so to speak) are optimal low band conditions and the CQ World Wide 160 contest. Now is the time to start planning your strategy and improving your radiators (and "listeners") for this important event. It sure would be nice to see an improved club performance this year! Anyone want to issue a challenge?

The number of members listed prominently in the standings of the 1994 CQ World Wide SSB contest is too long to cover in this space. Some notable efforts include Bill, KM9P operating from N4RJ, 3rd in the US all-band category; Neal, AE6E operating from K4JPD, 1st in the US on 15 meters;

Lee, AA4GA, 3rd in the US all-band low power; and Bob, WX4G, 6th in the US all band assisted (1st in call area 4). Ron, AA4S and Ron, AB4RU also posted some very impressive scores in the competitive all-band category. Congratulations to all of you. I hope you're making plans for exotic DX locations in the CQ World Wide 160 contest! See you at the next meeting.

73, Steve, KR4DL

## **FROM THE VP**

**by Sonny Marsh, KE4LDJ, VP**

This month I haven't been able to nail down a speaker for the meeting by press time. It will just have to be a surprise.

Don't forget to look for the Easter Island DXpedition coming up in September. By the time you read this, our own Bob (K4UEE), Randy (KØEU), and Bob (KØIYF) will be QRV from Juan Fernandex as CEØZ. They should be very active on the low bands, WARC, RTTY, and satellite. Low band signals should be loud as they will be using full power and full size loops on 80 and 160, and a two element beam on 40. As I mentioned at last month's meeting, individual contributions would be welcome.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

-73, Sonny, KE4LDJ

## **CQWW IS COMING UP GET READY!!!**

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

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 7/31/95 (Checkbook) (\$10 checkbook balance discrepancy from last month)	<u>\$2768.46</u>
Income:	
Dues, shirt and pin sales	\$418.50
Subtotal	<u>\$3186.96</u>
Expenses:	
T-shirts	623.52
Newsletter (3 months)	333.83
QSL bureau and Treasurer's stamps	15.40
160 M plaque mailing	104.68
Bank Charges	10.45
Total Expenses	\$1087.88
Balance Checking 8/31/95	<u>\$2099.08*</u>

\* Of this balance, \$1,294 is designated for the cluster fund.

NOTICE: CHECK YOUR LABEL - IF IT IS HIGHLIGHTED AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES IN 1995 - THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE. SEND IN YOUR DUES NOW TO AVOID MISSING OUT ON ANY SEDXC ACTIVITIES.

This month SEDXC would like to introduce the following new members: Jon Adams KE4MKW, Travis Danley N3QDL, Kazu Miyamori AD4WF/JA1CMD, Mary Stowell KR4YV, George Titlow KO5G, Jack Valk WA4TQE, Tim Whitehead, KD4AYT and Seiichi Yamazaki AE4KL. Please excuse me if I left anyone out or picked up an 'old timer' by mistake.

See you at the meeting.

73, Nancy NK4U

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**GET THOSE LOW BAND  
ANTENNAS READY!**

## MINUTES, SEDXC MEETING 8/15/95

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT

### Minutes From August Meeting Held 8/15/95

Meeting called to order by Steve, KR4DL who welcomed one and all (27 attendees), had all present sign attendance sheet and then introduced themselves. Several multi-taskers signed in and identified simultaneously.

Plaques were presented to N4XMX for his tireless efforts on the Newsletter in 1995 and to W4QO, who was this year's recipient of the W4NT award for outstanding achievement.

The reading of last meeting's minutes were waived, W4OUN is recovering from a broken leg.

There was no old business. Under new business, it was noted with sadness that KB4C, N4AA's XYL had passed away.

NK4U, Treasurer, advised on the collection of literature she had available for perusal. VK5QW has renewed his membership and had called Nancy from Australia regarding same. WA4CUG recalled meeting VK5QW in person and finally one day on the air.

K4ODL introduced discussion on the responsibilities of handling the 160 meter contest plaques, since this past year's handling was a bit difficult. It was agreed that Nancy, NK4U would handle collecting from the donors and K4ODL will handle distribution. KR4DL expressed thanks to both for working this out so amicably.

Details were read on the upcoming expeditions to Easter Island (XRØY), Salas y Gomez (XQØZ), and Juan Fernandez (CEØZ) featuring our own Bob, K4UEE, KØEU and KØIYG (9/13 - 9/20.)

K2UFT relayed a message to all from WA4ETN that the paperwork for 5A1A was in ARRL's hands (K5FUV) as of 8/15 and it appeared that everything needed to reach a decision was received except for a license photocopy. It was also reported that the second Pratas expedition may count for DXCC purposes.

We took a short break and then ran a 50-50 prize drawing. It was agreed that every other meeting would be 50-50, alternating with the usual prizes. In a late breaking announcement, KB4NJ has volunteered to create an Internet (*continued p3*)

(continued from p2) Web page for the Southeastern DX Club. The evening's program was a presentation on communications through amateur satellites given by Terry Gibbs, N4TYP.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

(Dick filled in since Buddy couldn't be there, thanks Dick! -ed.)

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## BEEPS DE K2UFT

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

You all get various publications to keep you up to date on the latest operating events in the DX World, so I won't be reinventing the wheel here and Rick wouldn't give me the space anyway! But we will have some home grown activities throughout the year and I'd like to see us put on a big push for the CQ 160 Test in January and February, '96. We need to make this an olympic year for amateur radio as well as other, more physical sports.

Kiyoshi, AE4EZ has suggested that SEDXC sponsor an award for working increasing numbers of SEDXC members, 10, 20, 30, etc. Suggested is a special award for achieving this during 1996 to tie us in with the Olympic Games, and an on-going award for working club members over the years. We would levy a fee for the award to cover printing and mailing expenses. **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Send me a note on the DX Packet system or via phone (770-393-2150 or 770-913-3624 at work) or buttonhole me at any meeting.

Back to home grown activities. **CUMULATIVE CONTEST:** We will have an operating contest running for the club year with the winner to be announced at next year's DX banquet. Work as many stations as you can starting September 1, 1995 through April 30, 1996. Score your efforts in accordance with the point values assigned below and submit a **SUMMARY** only (FORMS available next meeting) by May 21, 1996 meeting to K2UFT.

**BAND(S) OF THE MONTH:** For **OCTOBER** work as many stations as you can on 10 and 12 meters, using the appropriate point values from the list below. For those members with Technician or Technician + privileges, you may use bands and modes appropriate for your license class in lieu of the **BAND OF THE MONTH**.

General rules: With the exception of satellite  
September 1995

QSO's, direct contacts only, no repeater QSOs. None of the contacts claimed for points may be from an organized contest - casual, recreational type contacts only. Stations may be worked for QSO point credit once per band and mode. Credit for multipliers may be taken only once, regardless of band/mode.

**Deadlines:** The meeting following the end of each contest. **QSO POINT VALUES:** HF: High power - 1 Point, Low Power - 2 points VHF: Satellite QSO's 5 points, Direct QSO's 10 points **MULTIPLIERS:** HF: total number of US states and DXCC countries VHF: total number of different grid squares and DXCC countries worked.

**Overall multiplier:** Multiply your score by the number of different club members worked during the contest. To keep the interest running, you are encouraged to submit monthly updates on your cumulative contest score for publication in the club bulletin.

For October, let's set 24.910, 24.940, 28.110 and 28.440 as calling frequencies for SEDXClub. We can at least gain points talking to each other and perhaps by our presence, promote some activity on the bands.

-73 Dick, K2UFT

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## DX TIDBITS

**-Rick, N4XMX**

The best thing about September? Well, my 3V8BB card came back from YT1AD in Serbia after only a month! The way things are over there, I'm suprised anything survives the trip. Be thankful for where you're not!

The Easter bunch have come on the air with a vengeance! The CW operators actually give real signal reports (as advertised) but the SSB ops give just about everybody a 59. Strong signal on 40M CW. Am waiting to see if I get an Internet confirmation email of the QSO!

Resurrected the A-3WS on a 20' pole to help with some of the Africans and Europeans. Since it is aimed with the Armstrong method, I pointed it at 35 degrees and left it. Better get another remote antenna switch, the Heath is out of ports! Does give me a few S units over the vertical. Worth the trouble and hides well in the trees!

-CU in the pileups...

Rick, N4XMX