



Bulletin



September 2023

Founded In 1958

Our Next Meeting & Speaker

- Date & Time:** September 21, 2023, 7:00 PM
Location: Via Zoom
Speaker: Dick Baxter, K5TF, Member of DXAC Advisory Board
Topic: How the DXAC Functions

Please join us for an interesting and entertaining presentation.



SEDXC Holiday Party – Don't miss it. December 9, 2023 See hot link sedxc.org/holiday

From the Prez *(de John Tramontanis, N4TOL)*

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President's Column

Our August meeting was highlighted by a most interesting presentation by Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L. Val shared her story from the beginning of her amateur radio journey, to becoming an active contester and DXer and also her deployment to Puerto Rico with the American Red Cross for 3 weeks as part of a group of volunteer Amateur Radio operators, facilitating critical communications after Hurricane Maria in 2017. Her enthusiasm was contagious and hopefully inspired us to broaden our participation and experiences in our ham radio endeavors. Southeastern DX Club members making their marks in the DX community.

Over the recent months, when perusing my issues of QST and CQ magazines, it was striking to observe the instances of how many SEDXC members have been featured in, written about, or have contributed to, the stories related of DX activity appearing in these issues:

CQ Magazine, December, 2022 CQ Magazine - "Getting More From FT8" by Bob Hensey, K4VBM

CQ Magazine, December, 2022 - "JW0A, Svalbard" by Tom Harrell, N4XP, Nathan Wood, K4NHW, and Gregg Marco, W6IZT - all three who activated the entity

CQ Magazine, May, 2023 - "A Bahamas Adventure" by Gregg Marco, W6IZT - a summary of his team's RIB activation in the 2022 CQ WW contest

CQ Magazine, July, 2023 - "HK0NA Malpelo Island DXpedition 2012" by Bob Allphin, K4UEE A record breaking DXpedition with the following SEDXC members on the team: Bob Allphin, K4UEE Gregg Marco, W6IZT Gerry Rosalius, WB9Z George Nicholson, N4GRN Ralph Fedor, KOIR

QST Magazine, August 2023 - "Sable Island CY0S 2023" - with the following members providing off island team support: Bob Allphin, K4UEE Hal Kennedy, N4GG Chaz Cone, W4GKF

QST Magazine, September, 2023 - "Ducie Island RIB DXpedition, VP6A, 2023" - with the following SEDXC members providing support: Gregg Marco, W6IZT - on site Nathan Wood, K4NHW - off island Warren Merkel, KD4Z - off island

It is very impressive as to how prominent SEDXC club members are in the DX realm and certainly is a source of pride for our club.

Our September meeting will feature another club member, and former club president, who is making a mark in the DX community as well. Dick Baxter, K5TF, a member of the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) will be our guest speaker. This will be an excellent time to learn about how the DXAC functions, and also, provide an opportunity to ask questions and weigh in on DX issues that seem to be in the forefront today. Please check out the club home page at sedxc.org for info on Dick's program for September, and also, a look at Val's program from last month.

73 John N4TOL



<http://t-rexsoftware.com/sedxc/dxelpers/>



VP's Corner *(de Nathan Wood, K4NHW)*

A Few Word From Our Vice President

In August, we had Val Hotzfeld, NV9L speak about her experience contesting piloting DXpeditions and her trip to Puerto Rico after hurricane Maria. She is definitely an accomplished YL in the hobby with many lessons and stories that we can all learn from. If you missed the presentation, you can find it at sedxc.com/zoom/

This month, we are pleased to have Dick Baxter, K5TF with us speaking about DXCC, the history and updates.

Dick was licensed in November 1958 as KN5TFG, while recovering from near-death childhood accident at the age of 13. He upgraded to General Class in January 1960, K5TFG. His father, Jack Baxter, W5FRM was a DXer, and Dick followed in his

footsteps, confirming 4 entities during his Novice year. Dick received DXCC (Mixed #5975) in February, 1962, and currently 347/329, just 2 away from Honor Roll. Over the years he has upgraded to Advanced in 1973, and Amateur Extra in 1975. He applied for 2-letter call in 1977 and was issued K5TF! Dick has served on DX Advisory Committee as Southeastern Division Representative for over 3 years after being asked by Division Director Mickey Baker to replace Dave Thompson K4JRB (SK).

I know that many of you are passionate about the DXCC program. This presentation will allow each of us to hear from Dick about the DXCC program and his role in the DXAC. Join us on Sept 21 at 7pm via zoom!

Nathan H. Wood, K4NHW

Guest Writer, Andy Goss,- AA5JF

DX Marathon 2023

With good DX conditions these past few weeks, and a very promising Fall DX season, it is a good time to start thinking about the 2023 iteration of the DX Marathon. It is a great way to keep your DX skills sharp during the year, and since it resets every January 1st, it's a fun DX challenge that renews annually. Starting last year, the DX Marathon was adopted as a SEDXC initiative as well.

The DX Marathon, sponsored by CQ Magazine, is the fastest growing DX program in ham radio. As some of you may remember, Mark WC3W, the new manager of the program, visited with the SEDXC in March of this year, where he gave an excellent outline of the program. A recording of the meeting is available here: https://t-rexsoftware.com/sedxc/zoom/zoom_03.16.2023.mp4. Mark and his team have also revamped the website, which will allow you to quickly get an introduction or refresher of the DX Marathon program, <https://dxmarathon.com/>. This will also be the place to look for answers about the different entry categories (based on power output and antennas), and hints for doing well and submitting your entry.

Over 30 of us in the SEDXC participated in the 2022 iteration, and in addition to numerous excellent individual achievements (shout-out

to Jeff K1ZN for his top-20 world-wide finish), the Southeastern DX Club finished third amongst US clubs, and sixth overall. And we beat neighboring clubs in Tennessee and the Carolinas. To generate the club score, each of the club members' scores are added together. There is no maximum number of entries, nor is there any minimum DX total required for submitting. If everyone in the club who has been active chasing DX this year participates, we can easily finish second (or perhaps even first) amongst US clubs. Wouldn't that be something to be proud of?

Our 2023 goal is maximizing club participation, both in terms of the 2023 DX chasing, but also in submission. My hope is that we can get at least 50 entries this year from club members.

Submissions are due January 5, 2024, and must be done via the Excel spreadsheet entry form. There are a number of ways to automate filling in the score-sheet, which I will go over as we get closer to the entry date. I will also be available from December 29th until January 3rd to help with submissions.

For those of you new to the DX Marathon, take some time to familiarize yourself with the program. You may wish to review the slides from my SEDXC presentation in June of 2022, which are available here:

<https://augustauniversity.box.com/s/buqukoz06hjfjgt0wv4dduy3nvq369s0>.

Just to summarize: the basic premise is to work each CQ DX entity at least once during 2023 (no QSL or LoTW required), plus as many of the 40 CQ Zones as possible. The CQ DX entities are all the ARRL DXCC entities, plus an additional six (European Turkey, Sicily, African Italy, Vienna UN, Shetland Islands, Bear Island). Each DX entity and zone are worth one point. It is permitted to use the same contact for a DX entity as well as a zone (so if you have a contact with Egypt SU it could also count for Zone 34). You don't get extra credit for additional bands or modes. An FT8 contact with HB0 on 20M is just as good as a CW contact with HB0 on 160M—both are worth one point. Most will compete in one of the all-band/all-mode categories (especially if this is your first year), but it is possible to compete by single-band or single-mode. I'm working on a 10M only effort this year.

The rules and regulations for 2023 are unchanged from last year. The only difference is that there is no prohibition on contacts with Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. The format of the score sheet is also the same, but make sure to download the 2023 version from the website.

At this point in the year, it might be good to take stock of your DX contacts for 2023. There

are many DX entities that are pretty common, but might not be in your log during 2023 (LX or HS or whatnot). Do you have a Zone 18 contact, and are you sure he was in Zone 18, and not one of those Russian special event calls? What about European Turkey? And remember that the CQ WW contests likely will have very good DX conditions, present great opportunities for chasing DX.

A final word of encouragement. Even if you are not one of the big-guns or you have not been real active chasing DX this year, please do help the club by submitting to the DX Marathon. Every club score submitted, small and large, will help us beat the Western Washington DX Club, the Northern Illinois DX Association, and all the other competing US clubs. And this year at least, there are no geographical restrictions. Any club member operating from within the contiguous 48 states can enter.

I'll be sending further updates during the fall, including more about how to prepare your submission.

But please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Andy AA5JF

amgoss05@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Journal *(de Jeff Cantor, K1ZN)*



Greetings, Fellow DXers!

V6 – Micronesia DXPedition

V62P – **Pulap Atoll** / V62S – **Satawal Atoll**

DXCC - #81 WW IOTA – OC-155

Pulap is needed by 86% of IOTA chasers;

Satawal -#57 NA-C OC-299 is new IOTA

- Single op DXPedition – Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC –
- extremely active DXPeditioner
- October 25 to Nov 12 2023 – 5 – 7 days per island
- Pulap Atoll has not been activated in last 19 years
- Of 28 SEDXC Club League members surveyed (30% of Club League participants; for 15 – ATNO (54% of sample); 2 have 1 band only; 1 has 2 bands only; 2 have 3 bands only; and 7 need several band fills. 1 has a clean sweep.
- This is clearly a DXCC mission!

ZL7 – Chatham Island

ZL7/SP5EAQ

- Single op DXPedition (Jacek) – very experienced DXPeditioner
- October 20 – Nov 3 2023
- #77 WW ; #90 NA-EC
- Has been activated sporadically over last few years (sept-Oct '22)
- N4PL, Wald SEDXC member's friend
- Of 28 surveyed in ClubLeagues, ATNO = 14; other 12 need band fills.

Please see full applications attached at end of Bulletin.

Disbursements to report for August 2023:

This month our checkbook balance (as of September 1, 2023) is \$14,968.01.

August Disbursements

Purpose	Amount
Treasurer's Report	
Disbursements	
NO DISBURSEMENTS FOR AUGUST	

73 & GUD DX,

Jeff / K1ZN

Activities (de Verne Fowler W8BLA)



Huntsville was busier than in many years! Had positive comments, except for the heat from folks that attended Shelby. Hope that's an indication of things to come. Stone Mountain is just around the corner and looking forward to seeing all and will be doing card checking for DXCC, WAS and VUCC. Check the ARRL website and fill out all the forms in advance and bring them ! Volunteers to man the desk are always appreciated, drop me a

note and let me know you can help. Plans for a couple get togethers are in the works and more details to follow.

If you're working the INDEXA QSO Party keep those scores and we could qualify for a great club score. The exchange is at INDEXA IQP and links to N1MM UDC update

73 es gud dx!
Verne W8BLA
770-364-9500
w8bla@arrl.net

Around The Shack (de Hal Kennedy N4GG)

Receiver Noise from a Mystery Source*



There is a noise source lurking in your shack. I know - I found this culprit in my shack - a real-world experience. Consider coaxial cable, one of the basic components in every shack. It looks a lot like shielded audio cable and you can use it that way. I don't know why you would, but it works fine at audio frequencies and it will provide good shielding against 60 Hz hum. There is an upper frequency, called the cutoff frequency, where coax stops behaving as a

transmission line; but we hams never worry about that – the cutoff frequency for RG8-X is around 90 GHz. Yes, that's a G as in "giga". So the common garden-variety coax in our shacks behaves as a shielded cable from frequencies covering hertz to gigahertz. All coax has a small, usually very small, amount of signal leakage, but for ham purposes nothing outside our coax cables can get in and nothing inside our cables can get out - except at the ends. But, is that really true? It turns out the shielding properties of coax are fine for electromagnetic fields...which we usually

just call “RF,” but there is another type of field lurking around our shacks and around our world: magnetic fields. Coax provides NO shielding to magnetic fields. NONE. ZERO. In fact, a length of coax hooked to a receiver makes a good magnetic antenna. Why is that? A magnetic field “sees” coax as two wires that are quite different – the shield and the center conductor. A magnetic field (lines of magnetic flux if you prefer) sweeping through a piece of coax will induce different currents in the shield and center conductor since they are not physically the same. This will produce a signal in a receiver hooked to the coax. Sweeping magnetic fields are what make motors turn, generators generate, and transformers transform. There is nothing new here. It’s important to note however, that the field can’t be static. The field has to have an AC component to it – 60 Hz is typically what’s around our shacks, but there is a source of much higher frequency magnetic fields to worry about. Let’s look at a small piece of physics before we go looking for our noise source(s). Magnetic fields don’t propagate very well. RF can propagate around the world (DX), but magnetic fields are reduced in strength based on the cube of the distance. How does a magnetic flux of 1 gauss per meter-squared measured one inch from the source go down as we move away to two inches? The answer is one divided by 2 cubed, or $1/(2 \times 2 \times 2)$ which equals $1/8$. Doubling distance cuts a magnet field by $7/8$ ths or 87.5%. This is why we don’t communicate via magnetic fields. As an aside, two years before Marconi started

work with RF, William Preece tried to span the English Channel magnetically. Marconi succeeded where Preece had failed. Preece would have needed a gigantic magnetic field to signal across the channel – it’s just not possible. Edison also worked on magnetic signal systems and gave up pretty quickly, observing the fall off of magnetism with distance. This is an interesting time to read about.

Okay, how’s this affecting my ham station? I have seen magnetic fields disturb my ham operation three times in 50+ years and I’ll save the most important and fairly new magnetic source for last – but it’s the one to watch out for. Case 1: In the 1970s I bought a new Drake TR-7 which came with a matching power supply. I set the supply on top of the new rig and started getting 597 signal reports. The magnetic field around the power transformer was right on top of the VFO in the rig. The aluminum case of the rig and an identical one that enclosed the power supply were no help in stopping the magnetic field in the power supply from inducing a current somewhere in the VFO. The VFO had 60 Hz modulation on its output frequency. Separating the power supply from the rig by only one inch made it go away. Magnetism falls off fast. I kept the power supply on the floor after that. Case 2: I was setting up for a contest and excited to try out my new Alpha 99 amp. I had checked everything out hours before the start of the contest. I was ready; I just had to “move a few things around” to start the contest. Flipping on the amp, the CRT screen on top of it went nuts (a non-

technical term). CRTs were very susceptible to magnetic fields. The power transformer in the Alpha was the culprit. Again, only a few inches of separation returned the CRT to normal. Case 3: This is the case that today lurks in nearly every ham shack. One day the noise floor at N4GG went from very low to S9. Wow! Where did that come from? I started turning things off and found that the notebook computer on the operating desk was the culprit, but strangely, with the computer turned off, the noise was still not totally gone. That computer had been in that exact spot for years. What had changed?

I could make the noise get louder or quieter by what was on the screen on the computer, but I could never make it go away...until...I unplugged the computer's in-line power supply from the wall. So, what *had* changed? I had inadvertently kicked the computer in-line power supply laying on the floor onto a coax run that was in the receive signal path. See the picture below. This

month's hint: Separate your in-line power supplies from all your coax cables by a few inches or more - you will completely avoid what can be a bad problem. The worse thing you can do is have a very neat shack – complete with cable trays where the coax, AC line cords and AC to DC in-line supplies are all bundled together. If you simply have to be neat – then it's one cable tray for the coax and a second cable tray, separated by inches, for all the AC lines and in-line supplies. If you have a random arranged shack like N4GG, make sure you can't kick the wiring around with your foot – like I did here – such that you wind up with something that looks like the figure provided. My in-line supplies now hang from hooks at the back of the operating table, away from everything else, including my feet. My noise floor is back to normal – nice and low. How's yours?

*Originally published September 2018.

September Humor



De Neil Foster – N4FN

TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS.

#1 - Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.

#2 - "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.

#3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.

#4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

#5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."

#6 - "On time" is when you get there.

#7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.

#8 - It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?

#9 - Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

#10 - Growing old should have taken longer.

#11 - Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.

#12 - You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.

. . . And one more:

"One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

25 Years Ago... (de Van Herridge, N4VGE, Bulletin Editor)

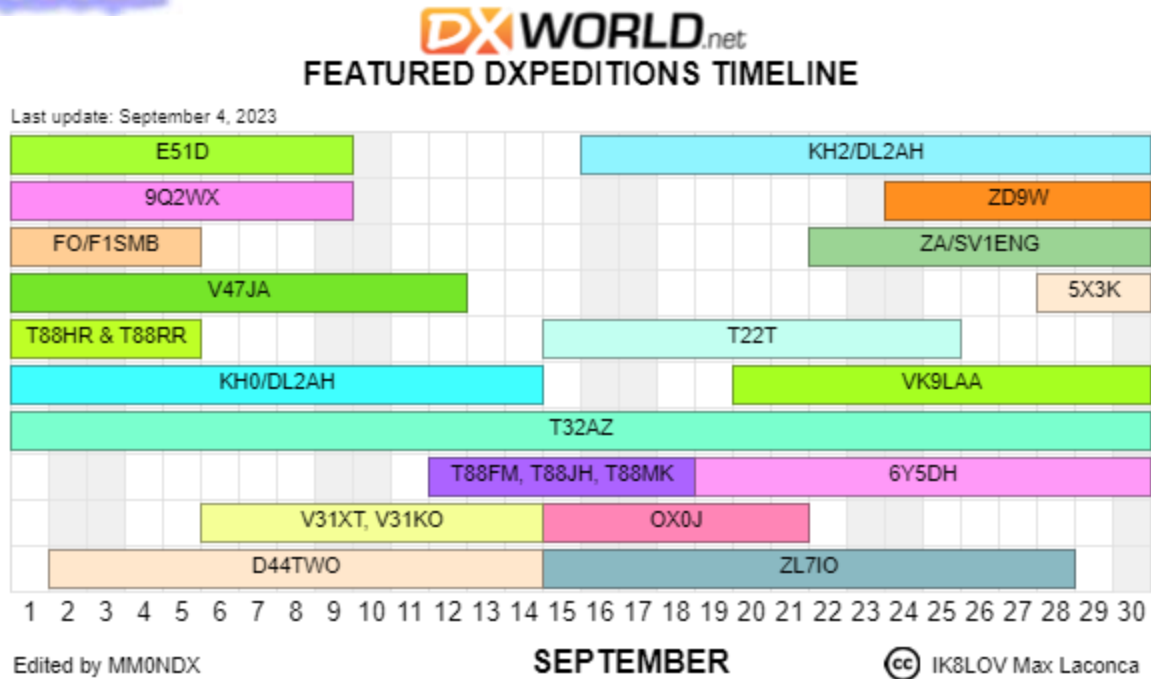


The September 1998 Bulletin link is attached below for your enlightenment and enjoyment. Don't forget to check SEDXC's website to get the latest club information, www.sedxc.org

<https://t-rexsoftware.com/sedxc/bulletins/sedxc0998.pdf>



The *DX World* Calendar/Timeline for September



The *DX World* Calendar features a timeline of all DXpeditions anticipated for the current month and is a great way to plan your chase for the next, All-Time New One (ATNO). The Calendar is updated regularly; use this link to see the latest version:

http://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw_timeline_1_1.php

SEDXC Officers & Positions

John Tramontanis, N4TOL – President – iam4rb@gmail.com

Nathan Wood, K4NHW – Vice President -- nathan.wood23@gmail.com

Joel Levine, WA4HNL – Secretary -- jlevine@bellsouth.net

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN – Treasurer -- jacantor9@gmail.com

Verne Fowler, W8BLA – Activities Manager -- w8bla@arrl.net

SEDXC Appointed Positions

Chaz Cone, W4GKF – Webmaster – w4gkf@chazcone.com

Van Herridge, N4VGE – *SEDXC Bulletin* Editor – vanherridge@gmail.com



SEDXC DXpedition Funding Request

Fill out the form completely and send it to treasurer@sedxc.org

Entity Name / Call Sign	IOTA: Pulap Atoll (OC-155) and Satawal Atoll (OC-299 New); DXCC: Micronesia / V62P and V62S
Web page	https://v6iota.weebly.com
Team leader / number of members:	Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC / this is a single operator expedition
Approx. Date and duration of Dxpediton	October 25 to November 12, 2023 (5-7 full days on each atoll)
QSL manager / QSL route	VE3LYC (direct or via the bureau)
Budget estimated for Dxpediton	\$27,300 (of which: gas for driving to Toronto airport and parking: \$300; land transportation airfare w/luggage: \$2,500; generator, gas, oil: \$1,800; chartered boat transporation: \$19,500; accommodation and food in Weno, Pulap, and Satawal: \$1,900; water and food provisions, including food and medicine for local communities: \$500; QSO cards shipped from Italy, envelopes, labels: \$600; etc.)
Position on most wanted list:	OC-155 is in demand by more than 86% of IOTA chasers, while OC-299 is a new IOTA, never activated before.
Landing permit/operating permission approved.	Yes
Last time this entity was activated	OC-155 was last activated 19 years ago; OC-299 is new reference.
Typical interval between activations	This will be the third activation of OC-155. The first was 44 years ago, and the second 19 years ago. It will also be the first activation of OC-299.
Anyone planning to activate this entity before your DXpedition	Nobody plans to operate from either OC-155 or OC-299.
Objective / Strategy	4000 QSOs with 2500 unique callsigns from each of the two IOTA references.
Callsign/Age of youngest Team member	N/A
SEDXC member initiating request	Jeff, K1ZN

SEDXC member(s) participating	N/A
Funding amount requested	At SEDXC's discretion

05/29/2011



SEDXC DXpedition Funding Request

Send Funds to:	Cezar, VE3LYC through direct bank wire transfer or paypal, after the expedition. Banking or paypal information will be made available upon request.
SEDXC logo on QSL cards?	Yes
SEDXC logo on web page?	Yes
Additional comments: I will use an Icom IC-7000 rig with an Elecraft KPA 500 amplifier and a vertical multi-band antenna, operating CW and SSB on 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, and 30 m, with 40 m and FT8 in reserve. I will have a spare rig, antenna, and mast. This is a full time operation.	

Internal Use

Date published in the newsletter	
Results of member review at the meeting: (approved / disapproved)	
Funds disbursed on date:	
Funds disbursed by:	

05/29/2011



SEDXC DXpedition Funding Request

**Fill out the form completely and send it to:
Treasurer.SEDXC@Gmail.com**

Entity Name / Call Sign	Chatham Islands ZL7/SP5EAQ
Date of Application	31 July 2023
Approx. Date and duration of Dxpediton	20 Oct 2023 -3 November 2023
Web page	http://chathams.sp7dqr.pl/
Team leader / number of members:	SP5EAQ (1)
List name & call of each team member	Jacek Marczewski SP5EAQ
List DXPeditions that each team member above took part in	FO/SP5EAQ, TX5AQ, VK9NE, T2AQ , E51EAQ, ZK3Q , 5W0AF, A3EAQ , T30AQ , 3D2MJ, ZL7/SP5EAQ, and ZA/SP5EAQ
QSL manager / QSL route	SP7DQR
Funding amount requested – please attach budget & show team’s contribution	I am happy to meet all the costs of the DX-pedition (ca. 8.000 Euro), but I am seeking sponsorship towards excess baggage, QSLs, and several smaller expenses including medical insurance, cost of a stopover in Wellington in the case of baggage delay, etc.
Send Funds to:	If accepted - sp5eq@gmail.com
Position on most wanted list – both global & North America – East Coast	Chathams are not very high in the ranking (Global phone: 70), but dxpeditions avoid activating this country due to the local accommodation base, focused mainly on organized groups of rich tourists.

Landing permit/operating permission approved (attach copy).	N/A
Overview of antennas & equipment to be taken on DXpedition	K3 (Elecraft), PA 600W h.m., GP multiband (by SP7GXP), delta loop for 80m h.m.
Last time(s) this entity was activated	Sporadic activity (usually a few contacts) during the last years
Typical interval between activations	As above, no significant activities for more than 10 years
Method of transportation to DXpedition site	Flight from NZ
Your team's objective / strategy including social objective	The pandemic has caused a significant drop in the activity of rare DXCC entities in the last few years. The severe decrease in the number of DX stations working SSB, associated with the development of FT8 and FT4, is an additional obstacle for amateurs using only the SSB. Recent massive activities from S. Pacific represent a negligible number of SSB DX contacts. This is a solo trip aimed to make as many as possible SSB QSOs. The logs will be uploaded to LoTW, OQRS service and bureau cards provided. I'm going to take part in the CQ WW DX Contest (part SSB).
Callsign/Age of youngest Team member	SP5EAQ/ 70/ 55 y. in the air HR#1 SSB
SEDXC member initiating request	N4PL
SEDXC member(s) participating, if any	
SEDXC logo on QSL card & web page?	Yes
Additional comments: Fast QSL support will be provided by SP7DQR. I will try to post logs online every day. Accommodation is already secured, and plane tickets have been purchased..	

Internal Use

Date published in the newsletter	
Review/analysis of SEDXC Club Leagues member sample (N=)	ATNO: Band Fills:
Results of member review at the meeting: (approved / disapproved) Recommendation \$_____	Recommended \$_____
Funds disbursed on date:	
Funds disbursed by:	