



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB

September 1997

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, Sept 16th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

-Paul Hansen, W6XA, President

I'm really behind schedule so I may not even get this note into the newsletter. If it makes I will be surprised. There is so much to do and so little time, I need as much help as I can get. Please, please volunteer to pick up a committee. I am looking for someone to make monthly presentations of upcoming DX-peditions and contests to keep the members informed. I am also hoping some expert out there will jump in with a kind of hints and kinks corner regarding stations, antennas, qsling, or just about anything of interest.

Last month, the members present suggested we survey present and past members about what they want to see in the club. The survey is still in the formative stages and I can't say exactly when that will be finished. More to follow.

At the October meeting I propose we have an AUCTION NIGHT. Haul out some good and not so good stuff to bring to the meeting to auction off. Don't clean out the shack, you have Lawrenceville for that. Just a couple of items that you would like to get rid of and might not be sure what price to ask.

The rules will be simple; Items submitted may have a minimum bid established. Items not sold above the minimum will be returned. All items will be otherwise sold to the highest bidder. Funds can be any coin of the realm except plastic. The only catch is that the SEDXC will extract a small donation from the buyer based on the selling price. I think 5% would be adequate. Bring anything from junk to jewels, boatanchors would be especially welcome but don't forget the stairs!

That's all for now. We will talk again on the 16th. CU there, Paul, W6XA

VP THOUGHTS

-Ernie Zingleman, KS4Q, VP

For those of you who missed the August club meeting, you missed a great one. A program on electrical safety was done by linemen from Georgia Power. I, who thought I already knew everything about electricity, still managed to learn a few things!

We also had a lively discussion regarding the decline both in club membership and in club participation. It was decided that before we do anything rash, a mail-in survey of all club members, both current and former would be in order. A committee has been formed to draw up a list of survey questions concerning meeting location, focus of the club, problems, programs, and new ideas. We, the club officers, need to hear from you, the club membership. If you wish to remain anonymous in your responses, then so be it! Look for the survey to arrive with your next club newsletter. Please be thoughtful and deliberate in your responses.

This month I am pleased to announce that we will have Gary, K9AY, an antenna design patent holder and local SEDXC member, speaking to us at the meeting about his "terminated loop antenna" design for low band reception. Before then, you might consider rereading Gary's intriguing article which appeared in September '97 QST on page 43. If you don't have room for a beverage, come near about this new design and bring your questions. It fits in a 30 foot circle!

Lastly, you may have heard some discussion about DXCC 2000 and how the ARRL DX Advisory Committee has proposed changing the DXCC award program. If you have not heard the details, I will be handing out copies of the latest report on the DX Advisory Committee's activities at the meeting. Until then, turn on your rig and work some DX. The solar flux has already hit 96!

Just like DX Is! - Sunspots Are!

73' Ernie KS4Q

BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

As I write the NUMBERS are 96 - 4 - 2 - Could it be that we're emerging from the doldrums? There's a feeling of fall in the air, nobody wants to bother with the pool anymore, including the chief cleaner, me. Been fooling with MiniProp in preparation for weekend skeds with our furthest flung member, Dale, M0AOP. The English hams are observing a four hour period of silence on Saturday in remembrance of Princess Diana, so we need to work around that as well as the sunspots.

Things come and things go - Rick, NQ4I is putting up a Christmas tree, 2 on 80, 3 on 40, 5 over 5 on 20 and a 6 element propagation maker for 10 meters at 135 feet - should be an awesome array. Tad, WA4CUG's taking his tower down and taking a hiatus from DXing in favor of marriage this month with Karen Rutschow and probably his and her Harley, s eve'tually. Bon Voyage, Tad and Karen - you could find a way to mount a TS50 on your Harley!

The bands are changing, seasons are changing and hams are changing their focus. Last month's meeting saw the introduction of a constitutional change that would eliminate the requirement that you hold DXCC before you can vote in club proceedings. I'm in favor of that - I think we are missing quite a few potential members, members with great ideas about station setup, antenna configuration, top-notch operators who probably have the equivalent of honor roll status but for political or other reasons, don't want to be involved in the DXCC program. and beginners who might be intimidated by 150 foot towers and 6 element beams. There was another change proposed I don't agree with it- its proposed that a potential member have a sponsor and wait a month before approval by the membership. That's amounts to perking up their interest by dropping the DXCC requirement and then throwing cold water in their face since we require that you be sponsored and we need a month to think over whether or not we want you to join.

There was supposed to be some sort of survey to elicit the opinions of members not present on the above matters, followed by some sort of action at the coming meeting. If you feel strongly, one way or the other, voice your opinion by returning the survey - better yet, show up in person to present your views - they need to be heard.

73 Dick K2UFT Activities Manager

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 7/31/97 (Checkbook)	\$3066.39
Income:	\$362.00
Expenses:	
Door Prizes	\$33.44
Officer Plaques	\$163.24
Post Office	\$4.95
July Newsletter	\$104.26
August Newsletter	\$88.11

Balance Checking 8/31/97 \$3034.39*

August 31, 1997 balance: \$3034.39 **

** Of this balance, \$905.15 is from the packet fund and \$920 is reserved for the CQWW 160 plaques. That leaves \$1209.24 for actually club expenditures.

Well, the antenna is still not up... but it's together. Thank goodness we didn't take the bent one entirely apart when it was brought down. Antenna manufacturers leave a lot to be desired when they write their directions. First you read the directions, then run around the corner and look at the old one, then run back and read the directions again and then finally connect another piece. I did put up a dipole, but it's obvious that I need all the help I can get, the SWR is 5:1. Not good. Well.. maybe by next month.

73, Nancy NK4U, Treasurer

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.

SEDXC MINUTES 7/97

-Rick Glisson, N4XMX, Sec.

Paul Hansen, President called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM. Paul welcomed everybody and everyone introduced themselves.

Paul then called for committee reports. Activities: Dick, K2UFT, had no report. Membership: Paul, K4UJ suggested handing out info at other club meetings, especially after watching (continued on p3)

(continued from p2) Bob, K4UEE, do a program on Heard Island the Atlanta Radio Club. Treasurer: Nancy, NK4U reported that there were only 43 renewals. Nancy also indicated the need for members to encourage others to renew. A general discussion developed that ended with Nancy agreeing to send out letters to past members.

The program was given by Georgia Power on electrical safety and high voltage lines. Perry and Mike gave a lively and informative demonstration including a video presentation and live 10kv tabletop model. They apologized that their video was not quite as lively as the brief one that preceded them! Discussion followed and handouts were available.

After the break, plaques were handed out to past officers: Steve, K4WA (pres), Paul, K4UJ (VP), Dick, K2UFT (activities), Nancy, NK4U (tres), Randy, K4ODL (sec), and Rick, N4XMX (newsletter editor).

Paul, W6XA, then opened discussions on the proposed changes to the SEDXC constitution. Various reasons for loss of membership ranged from low sunspots, lack of DXCC and therefore voting privileges, to meeting location. Many present including NK4U, K4ODL, W6XA, K4UJ, KE4LDJ, W4EA, and N4XMX joined in the discussion. K2UFT moved to table the motion two months until a survey could be sent out and evaluated. This was seconded. Don, W4EA, made a motion to have a committee to compile and analyze the surveys. This was seconded and Don, W4EA and Paul, K4UJ will be the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35PM and shortly afterwards, the power went out...

PART 3 of a Series (continued from last month)
My Thoughts on Propagation de W/7 (Alias W0MHS)

Lots, you tune the band and DED DED DED (especially on 20M!!!!), yet you go to 15M and the world is alive and well? The ECOF is above 20M on that path, and it is a lot of the time, the E-layer is the bad guy and if you have high ECOF between you and DX, forget trying to workum, the E-layer is a super efficient layer and will chop you down fast when you are at freqs near ECOF (I call these "grazing" freqs) the E-layer looks and works and sounds more like a foggy cloud that sometimes lets a QSO thru for 22 seconds or mebbe a tad longer 10-15 minutes. But, the MAIN POINT IS: You gotta KNOW what the EVIL LAYER is doing! and what to look for! DX IS

ALWAYS THERE TO BE WORKED! Sunspots are only icing on the cake making signals a bit nicer to copy!

SEDX boys have condx (at the bottom of the cycle even!!!!) that us BBP folk would drooillll over whatta buncha sissys not chasin' DX at solar bottom ... it is the absolute best trainin' time for dx operatin' you kin git!

I have used EMP (Early version of MP - what shows the ECOF!) for years and tons and tons of DX. Take any path you want that's open at a lower signal level with a SS# around 10 or so, about DED by most folks standards, and then rerun the thing with SS# of 200 and see what happens to the signal level — most often it takes tonza SS# to drive it up even 10 db (1.6 Sunits!) — so SS are NOT THE CAUSE of the DECLINE in DX, it's the LAZY DXer that is the cause — truth has been Spoken, Dr. DB! Lack of Dxpeditions? NO WAY!: VK0IR, BS7H, etc. etc. etc. ... those folks are out thar on dem ocean rocks hollarin' atcha! Answer back! All at solar bottom!

EMP (using Smoothed SS#) is the secret. Big time DXers around here (all 1.6348 of them!) sed I was crazy, no way you can run 48 EU in an hour out here, until I showed them the log, then called them to LISTEN UP the next time I ran ... BLEW THEIR SOCKS OFF!

Study the band and paths using EMP, it will teach you marvelous things. Lotsa folks say the MP don't work ... wrong! If you put in garbage data, you get garbage results. WWV F-#'s are the input garbage...unless the number is one that happens to correspond to the long term smooth SS#. For the next few months, use a sunspot number of 12. That will give you what's happening pretty well. If you want better condx, up the SS# in EMP and find out what changes ... notta lot unless the SS# jump is HUGE! Where u get SS#? I take mine data from Sky & Telescope, the last issue sez AAVSO mean for December was 12! Good enuff for April too! You can use Zurich SS# too, I usually get HB9#s for a comparison to AAVSO (American Assoc. of Variable Star — including da Sun - Observers!)

Take EMP or MP newer versions (fancier interface) and run the paths/openings and LEARN what's there all the time each year and then call CQ! Enuff ... de W/7 Huntsville, UT up hi in da mountains!

-The End