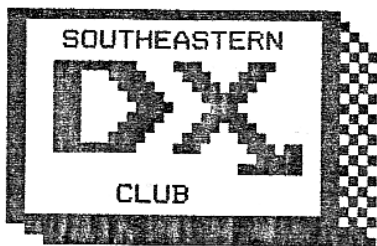


SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB



DX Alert 147.500S
also 147.195/.795
DX Ragchew 147.470S,
.540S, 147.195/.795
Meeting Date: October 19, 1982
Place: Peachtree Lutheran Church at
the corner of Narmore and P'tree,
2 blocks North of Phipps Plaza.

I think everyone is going to like the new format for the SouthEastern DX Club bulletin/newsletter. I, for one, am getting too old to be reading that small type! You may have figured out that your editor now has his IBM Selectric up and running with the TRS-80 word processor. To go along with the large type are a few other changes I have been wanting to make to our publication.

Your editor has already solicited some folks to write articles or columns for the bulletin. Anyone interested in writing, please drop me a line or send your article to me. I think a few cartoons might be nice also. Whatever talents along these lines, you might have, please share them with us!

The September meeting was held on the 21st and the tape from the Kansas City DX Club has still not arrived. The program was Carl and Martha Henson's 1979 DXpedition to the Maldive Islands. The club meeting ran later than usual as there was somewhat extensive discussion regarding the dues increase. Annual dues, starting next year, will be \$18. We will address the subject of lower dues for special cases at the October meeting. Namely, \$9 per year for school kids. It seemed to your editor that the membership was overwhelmingly supportive of the need for increased revenue. The bylaws amendment was also adopted and, after the issue of special dues is addressed, you will receive a copy of the Bylaws with your bulletin (probably December).

The October program should be a tape and slide presentation of ON5NT operating Jim Bullington's (N4HX) station at TYA11. The program is presently loaned to another club, but we SHOULD have it in time for the meeting. (Maybe if it doesn't make it, we will have the tape from the Kansas folks instead!)

MEET THE DXERS

I first met Barry O. McDonnell, WA4FBH, when he was fresh out of High School. Barry went from Novice (WN4FBH) to Advanced class all in the same year, 1973. He later earned his Extra but chose to retain his old callsign.

I was quite dismayed in 1974 to learn that Barry had made a decision to give up HF DXing. I thought VHF was 2 M FM! Barry went through a strange metamorphosis: he went from clean shaven and normal looking hair to long hair and a Fu Manchu moustache! I figured those hippie types on VHF had really corrupted my friend. Barry was a VHFer from 1974 till 1978. During this time, he chased states and countries mostly via scatter. His totals are 48 states and 15 countries on 6 M, 37 states on 2 M, and 12 states on 432 Mhz! In 1975, Barry and Randy Shirley, WB4CMD (now KD4UH and a member of the SEDXC!) operated WA4FBH Multi-op in the June VHF Qso Party and won the S.E. Division. In the 1978 September VHF Qso Party, Barry operated Single-op and set a S.E. Division Record and tied nationwide for 6 M multipliers! Barry conducted the VHF forum at the Atlanta Hamfest in 1976 and 77. Since Barry has been back in HF DXing, he has brought his country total up to 304 (from 200+ before the VHF period), and done quite well in the DX contests. In 1980 and 1981 he received certificates for the ARRL DX Contest, 1st Place Phone SEDXC, and in 1981 he won the S.E. Division.

Barry married his high school sweetheart, and he and Melissa live in Morrow, Ga. Because of his work he is unable to attend the DX club meetings. Barry disproves the "poor little guy with a dipole" theory.

His 4 element quad is mostly homebrew made from left over and thrown away pieces of other antennas and his linear is Heathkit. Barry also served as Qsl manager for our group that operated VP5EE in the 1980 ARRL DX Phone Contest. When asked for any words of wisdom, Barry replied that there were two things he would like to say: "Just because the book says it won't work, does not mean that it won't!" and "Don't be a LID! Listen BEFORE you transmit!"

Your editor sent a copy of the following letter to the Dixie DXers' president, Rick Dougherty, NQ4I.

Dear Dixie DXers,

I am pleased to learn that your organization has been formed, and would like to extend my personal good wishes for a successful DX and Contest Club.

The southern metro Atlanta area has been in need of a DX club for some time, and the entire region has been in need of a good contest club for years. The membership of the South Eastern DX Club has never been a contest oriented organization in spite of many attempts by several members to stir up proper interest.

As the editor of the South Eastern DX Club newsletter, I would be pleased to print information regarding your club, such as meeting time and place, future plans, and how to become a member.

Again, I would like to express best wishes for a productive and successful club, and I hope to see both clubs grow close and cooperative in every way.

Sincerely, (Carl Henson)

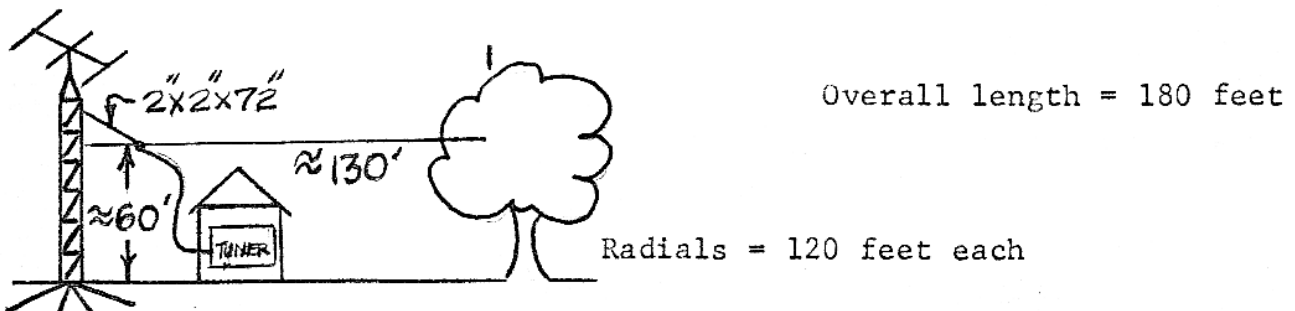
With the sunspot count going down, the low bands will be the only thing open at night in a few years; so, you might consider adding a vertical with a good radial system. The vertical is a good DX performer on the lower frequencies.

In the past few years, I've tried a few ideas with radials that may be of interest. First off, I would caution anyone against the use of bare aluminum or steel wire for radials. I put down some #15 aluminum wire less than two years ago, and it has all deteriorated to a useless state due to its interaction with ground chemicals and fertilizer. Steel wire rusts very rapidly and has lower conductivity. At present, the easiest thing I've found to work with is insulated stranded wire; #16 is a good size. The junk stores (P'tree salvage) often have 1000-foot rolls for \$10 to \$15. A minimum of 20 radials, 1/4 wavelength long for the lowest frequency used, is recommended. If you can't go to a 1/4 wavelength, use more than 20 radials. (Using more than 20 is better, but the improvement factor of your returns diminishes.) Broadcast stations use 120 radials.

The best way I've found for laying the radials is on top of the ground, and pinned about every 1 and 1/2 feet. This enables you to still be able to cut the grass and not interfere with the radials, plus within a year the grass will cover the wires and you will not see it again. (XYL approved!) Technique: Stretch the wire the length you want for the radial, along the ground where you want it, and pin it with a piece of solid aluminum made into a narrow "U". (Cut off a strip of solid wire, approximately 6" long, and form the "U" with a pair of needle-nose pliers.)

Many people say, "My vertical works good without radials; its SWR is 1:1." They should check their DUMMY LOAD's SWR sometime, because they'd have similar circumstances to a vertical without radials or saltwater (liquid copper) underneath it. Most of the power is dissipated in the ground and is NOT radiated by the antenna.

Below is a vertical antenna I've used with the aforementioned radial system. I've used it on 160/80/40 with much success over the past several years. The basic design was taken from the W6SAI Wire Antenna Book.



The vertical portion does the major radiating, with the horizontal acting as top hat loading. A smaller version for 80/40 has a total length of 90 feet. See you on TOP BAND this year!

Our treasurer, Harry Saunders, K4GFH, is holding club badges for the following. Please arrange to pick them up at a meeting or have someone else get them for you.

WD4DQZ KD4NR N4PN KC4OH N4BWI K4KJZ

FOR SALE.....Drake TR-4, P/S, Speaker, Microphone, and manual - \$350.00 - Used by a little old lady in a pile-up or two. Call Sally, WB4NiceDX (615) 588-1474 or the OM, Ed, WB4NDY (404) 429-0243.

FOR SALE.....Alpha 76A (3ea. 8874s!), MFJ-989 Antenna tuner, and a 4 Element Cubex Quad. Call George Hellman, WD4EYD (404) 971-1811.

St. Peter and St. Paul Rocks, PYOSP, came on today as this bulletin is being written. The news release came from IDXF just 1 or 2 days after the September bulletin was mailed to KC4M for duplicating. It would be nice if we could make this more of a DX bulletin with DX news but by the time we get to press, the information is no longer valid. That only leaves it up to our imagination for the DX news. There is already one (at least one) DX bulletin that is a lot heavier on imagination than fact!

We need a name for our DX Club bulletin. Any ideas? We could call it the QRPer, the List-taker, the Policeman, or any other name one might associate with DXing. I think we can come up an appropriate name. What do you think?

For those DXers that are also computer owners, I have a couple of BASIC programs that might be of interest to you. One does a sunrise/sunset time based on your latitude and longitude plus gives you the option of plugging in a different set of figures. (Like setting a schedule for a rare country on 80 M, you could optimize the schedule time to be as close as possible to the grayline.) I have another that figures MUF. These are public domain, so no need to worry about copywrite. If you use a TRS-80, I can loan a cassette tape of the program, a disk or send it to you over the phone if you are local. Otherwise, I will be happy to provide a program listing for you to convert to your machine.

For those low frequency operators, send \$3.00 and your latitude and longitude (or the location you are interested in!) to our treasurer, Harry Saunders, K4GFH, and we will print you a list of the sunrise/sunset times for the entire year.

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