



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

HEADQUARTERED IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

October 1990 Issue

Editor: Dick Bentley, K2UFT

Phone: 393-2150 or Atlanta Radio Club BBS 850-0546

DX Alert Frequencies

147.50 Simplex

147.795/T - 147.195/R(tone7) KN4B

DX Packet

W8ZF 145.63

W1UA 145.61

K4KG 144.91

Rag Chew Frequencies

147.47 147.52 147.54 147.795T/147.195R(Tone7) KN4B

Next Meeting - Tuesday, October 16, 1990 - 7:30 PM

Phipps Common Meeting Room - Lower Level - Phipps Plaza Shopping Center - Buckhead (near Lenox Mall)

Program: Bob Allphin, K4UEE - 10 Years of Contest Dxpeditions,

Including his recent Monaco trip.

DE KC4MJ ...

Contest season is upon us -- 27, 28 October CQ Worldwide DX Phone, and 24, 25 November CQ Worldwide DX CW. As all of the CQ contests go this one is a lot of fun. Don't forget your scores - to the credit of SEDX Club. We had a fine showing last year. Let's continue the 'roll'.

3Y5X, Oh Boy. It seems the Club Bouvet folks shipped a second package of QSL cards, this one weighing 25 pounds, to the INDEXA boys - and guess what? NO POSTAGE for the 5,000 to 6,000 cards in envelopes. It seems that the last batch was sent the same way. The INDEXA boys have footed the bill for the postage again, so if your cards came in rubber stamped "Forwarded Courtesy of INDEXA" send them \$1 or \$2 to help them. It sure was nice of them to do that. Mine came in about ten days ago with the rubber stamp and also a note from the Club Bouvet group. Written across the back "KC4MJ -Thanks for the \$10.00 and IRC's". Oh, well, I have the four cards, and that I appreciate. I commend the Club Bouvet operation for their efforts in just going to Bouvet. However, I wish the QSLing had been handled differently. The SEDX sent a mailing with a sizable contribution and as of this writing the cards are still not here.

It appears that a lot of mail has been sent to ARRL re the DXCC fees, and I've not

heard anyone say anything positive about it. In a response to the Atlanta Radio Club the ARRL stated they had taken a "survey" in which DXer's indicated they did NOT want cards checked in the "field". I don't remember this survey, do you? How do you feel about it?

73 and Good DX,

Neil

BONEYARD

Hardline - The Charles Newton Radio Club in Griffin has several reels of 1/2" and 3/4" hardline they would like to part with for a donation to the club. Contact Tom Lewis, N4PFC at 404-228-9166 or Alan Bond, WB4GNT and 973-6251.

KUDOS

Karl, WD4RPC liked our bulletins so much he renewed for three years! Ed, N4CHB, regrets he won't be continuing due to distance to travel and limited time to operate, but still took the time to compliment the club letter, so we returned the compliment by sending out one more issue.

CONTESTS

In the CQ World Wide SSB Test be sure to look for and work P40T (possible last

minute change to P48T). This operation will be manned by WX4G, W3BTX and K4PI in a multi-single effort from the Holiday Inn on Aruba. The group will be representing the SEDX Club so let's help ourselves by helping them. Mike, K4PI, reports they will be active prior to the test using their own calls /P4 on 160 thru 10 CW & SSB (WARC Bands undecided).

Don't forget to credit the SEDX Club on your contest entries - the bigger the better, but all of the scores will add up for us.

WA4CUG is hosting an all band SSB Multi-Single effort (assuming those nasty folks at work let him up for the weekend) - last year the event was catered by Liz, KC4EWK with delicious results-there's a lady that stands tall in the kitchen! You might want to call Tad on 696-7803 if you'd like to put in a few hours in the test.

Its too late for this issue, but what are you members planning for the CW Test? If you're going multi-single/multi, do you have any room for those who'd like to learn how to contest, or for those who know how but have not been asked?

Silent Keys

We're sorry to report that two well known DXers passed away recently - Gus Brown-ing, W4BPD and Bob Tanner, ZL2BT.

Bob will have 3A cards with him

MEETING MINUTES - September 18, 1990

Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM by KC4MJ. A guest, Ralph, K1RH was recognized. In the announcement department, Dave, K4JRB has been appointed an Assistant Director of ARRL and Steve, K4JPD has been named to the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. It was noted that the 3Y5 cards are continuing to trickle in.

A letter sent by Roger, N4VYZ to Frank Butler, W4RH (reproduced elsewhere in this bulletin) was read aloud, complaining about the 6.5 months he's waited to get his DXCC award, the monetary fees that are being imposed, and the apparent lack of management ability in Newington. This letter led to further discussion: K1RH commented that he's the US Checkpoint for DARC awards and there was no question in his mind that ARRL needs to go to a field check system and that its up to organizations such as the SEDX Club to make our wishes known. Another member commented that he's ready to send in his cards to qualify for DXCC but he'll wait until ARRL has its act together.

It was moved and seconded that the SEDX Club send a letter to Mr. Butler complaining about the management of the League. In discussion that followed, it was thought that more professional management was needed at the League, not restricted to just the awards program. While we realize changes will be taking place, letters from organizations such as SEDX Club should help to guarantee those changes take place. Question was called, carried. Motion was carried.

In the tidbits department, K2UFT reported that the shareware version of K1EA's CT Program, Version 6.0, is available for download on the Atlanta Radio Club Bulletin Board as TRAN.ZIP. The ARC BBS Phone is now 850-0546. Iris & Lloyd are on in 7Q7, ZL1AMO will be going to ZL9 and thence to Kerguelen Is. ZA is still on hold, WB4CSK will be on Wake Is. Sept. 19-24 and friend John, PA0CXC will sign his new US call KN4NL when he next visits ST0.

In the hints department, if you own a Titan Amplifier, you should be aware that the two speed switch on the cooling fan can stick, but so far experience has shown that only the paper chimneys are damaged. For those receiving QRZ DX in mangled condition, the author will ship it in a first class envelope if you so request. Carl,

WB4ZNH has some "Z" brackets for antenna mounting on Rohn 25 and 45 towers - contact him.

Door prizes (obtained with the cooperation of Mark Holmes, KJ4VO of Ham Radio Outlet) were distributed in the usual fashion.

The program for the evening featured HA5PP and HA5WA operating at XW8CW and XW8DX. The tape was obtained through the courtesy of the Northern California DX Foundation.

13 September 1990

Frank M. Butler, W4RH Director, ARRL Southeastern Division 323 Elliot Road, S.E. Fort Walton Beach, Fl. 32548

RE: ARRL DXCC awards

Dear Mr. Butler,

SIX AND ONE-HALF MONTHS! That's how long I've been waiting for my DXCC award to arrive and I'm disgusted. What a disgrace to the ARRL.

Hams from around the world have been inticed, in part, to join the ARRL by reading pamphlets like "The ARRL Awards Program" which states: "The premier operating award in all of Amateur Radio is DX Century Club." Or maybe they read "Your Guide to ARRL Services" in which it is stated: "DXCC-- One of the most coveted awards in all Amateur Radio is the DX Century Club."

Now the ARRL has decided to institute a new fee schedule, of which I quote, from September 1990 QST: "...is intended to encourage participants to send less-frequent individual submissions." What it really says is ARRL is now going to punish and discourage the Amateurs who have worked hard to acheive the goals originally set up to encourage DXCC participation. It's also a classic case of pass-the-buck. DXCC is blaming us on the backlog instead of accepting the fact that it's poor management took so long to act. DXCC is using the concept of management-by- condemnation rather than the more effective management-by- participation approach. What would effective management have done months ago? Hire temps.

What follows is a list of possibilities to help solve the problems in DXCC and other awards programs.

1) Let W.A.S. field checkers verify all but the rarest 50 DXCC countries. If they're honest enough for W.A.S. then it's an insult to think they couldn't check DXCC.

2) Hire more checkers at headquarters.

3) Ask for volunteers to work at headquarters.

4) Streamline rules to reduce lost time spent on phone inquiries. The DXCC rules read like a fine print contract that one needs an attorney to translate. Example: Why do we need 13 subparagraphs for rule #1 under Section I??? Subparagraphs e,f,g,h,i,and j can all be combined. Take out the unnecessary garbage. In other words use the KISS principle. Keep it simple and straightforward. And use bigger print. Some of us have seeing problems.

5) Print new rules and DXCC Countries lists in QST to reduce the cost of printing and mailing new lists when amended. Use standard 8 1/2 X 11 forms that anyone can copy so we don't have to wait for the official forms to come from headquarters.

6) Encourage suggestions from members on how to improve the programs.

7) Reduce postage and handling cost by mailing the certificate at time of verification.

8) Have a performance review on Don Search. When I met him at the Atlanta Hamfest he was not only condescending to me but others as well. He acted like anyone who didn't know how to dot every "i" or cross every "T" was an idiot. Maybe he doesn't realize that's how he comes across but it certainly was apparent to myself and others. If so many of us are making "stupid" mistakes then maybe the rules and/or forms are what's "stupid."

I hope that the time I have taken to compose this letter will result in positive action.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Wieler, N4VYZ P.O. Box 1009 Riverdale, Ga. 30274

cc: Neil Foster, KC4MJ President, Southeastern DX Club

Our Letter?

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The SEDXC Membership Speaks

October 5, 1990

Mr. Frank Butler, W4RH
Director, Southeastern Division, ARRL

Dear Frank:

N4VYZ's 9/13/90 letter to you concerning the lack of service from the DXCC Desk at headquarters was read before the Southeastern DX Club membership on 9/18/90. Following general discussion of the points raised in Roger's letter and his well-reasoned proposed solutions, the membership voted that the Secretary direct correspondence to you voicing not only our agreement with Roger's statements, but also our genuine concern that the League has a real fundamental problem -- the Executive VP and General Manager, as well as other salaried employees, are not properly managing the League's day-to-day affairs.

As to the DXCC situation, we appreciate your concerns, but we believe Mr. Search to be the core of the problem. We've heard the excuse that it is difficult to find someone else willing to put in the hours he does and put up with the drudgery of the work. We have the feeling ARRL's Newington management has bought in on that proposition, but Frank, we don't buy it, and you shouldn't either. In the minds of our membership it just can't be allowed to continue. Consider this - what would they do if Mr. Search became disabled and couldn't perform his duties?

The problem may very well solve itself, however, due to the imposition of the DXCC fee structure. By setting an October deadline, you've assured the allegedly indispensable Mr. Search of at least another six months of backlog to handle. By setting the fee structure, you've sealed the death warrant on the program anyway. What makes ARRL the ultimate authority in matters of DXCC type awards? History! And that's what the award will be in a few years if the fees are allowed to stand.

DXCC, of course, is one of our primary concerns as a DX oriented club. The membership, however, feels that this is just one small corner of a major League problem - mismanagement. Examples of poor leadership from Newington abound, including the recent skirmishes with the FCC on Net interference, practically no planning or forethought on the defense of our 220 MHz frequencies and a poor presentation on the issuance of call signs in addition to a general lack of interest or response to the needs of the membership. The problem seems to be that we are

saddled with reactive management in Newington, where the current state of the art requires PROACTIVE management upon the part of those who are paid the run the League.

We recently received a mailing from Headquarters requesting financial support for the upcoming WARC meetings in Spain. You'll probably receive many donations based on past experience with the ARRL as Ham Radio's spokesman at WARC79. Think of how much better a response you would get if the members had some measure of confidence in the way League affairs were being managed here at home.

Please make our feeling known to the Board and to whomever you can button-hole that has the power to make a difference!

T. R. Bentley, K2UFT Secretary

Southeastern DX Club - Atlanta, Ga

SMALL GUN CONTESTING

By Charles R. "Chuck" Ogburn, KA4CVL
Reprinted from the June 1989 NTCC Newsletter

I had been looking forward to this contest for quite a while because this was going to be my first serious attempt at contesting. I had tinkered before but had never gone all out for the kill. During last year's contest I scored 70,794 in a half-hearted attempt in which I was more interested in working new countries than in achieving a high score. I was not concerned with the fact that I was wasting a lot of time trying to work DX in pile-ups. The result was 207 QSO's and 114 countries during a contest in which I worked only 10, 15 and 20 meters.

This year my equipment was a Kenwood TS440s with a Cushcraft A3 Tribander at 20 feet. The difference between the two year's was that my QTH was now 8 miles north of last year's and my tribander was now 20 feet closer to the ground. I now had a IBM clone 80286/12Mhz computer and the latest version of the K1EA software which I had practiced using during the 1989 ARRL CW Test.

Two days prior to the contest I come down with the flu - I feel better the day of the contest but still not up to full speed. I now begin to assemble my contest station, moving the computer to my radio operating desk and checking my SWR. It's changing sporadically due to the wind so I climb the roof, tighten some hardware and find the SWR now acceptable, I work two new ones - KP2A/KP5 and A35DX. I hope that this is an omen to the change in my luck!

My plans are to score 100,000 points and

at least 300 QSO's using the search and pounce technique. I begin the contest on 10 meters working VP5V and other Caribbean and South Americans. Forty minutes into the second hour, I have 20 contacts and 13 multipliers. At this point my new neighbor comes over to complain of interference on her stereo, TV, and cordless telephone so I take time to explain some of the causes and solutions involving interference to her. I also ask her to bear with me until it is over. She agrees.

An hour later I return to my operating position to find 10 meters on the way out so after working CP8HD and PY4SA, I switch to 15 meters working Caribbean and South American stations. Turning my beam northwest I work a run of 14 JA's. With a total of 46 QSO's and 23 multipliers at 0400Z, I decide it is time to try 20 meters.

My decision is a good one as 20 meters is wide open to just about everywhere! I work KH6FKG, J6LSN, HK3MAE, P40V, V31C, VP5T, ZS5NK, and many more during my first hour. I then work more JA's, T32AF, KD7P/NH2, HG9R, TR8SA, ZL2SQ, and CP1IL among others. With 20 meters fading and 91 QSO's under my belt I decide to retire for the night at 0800Z.

I begin the next morning at 1145Z on 20 meters, but find the band still too quiet so I decide to get some more badly needed sleep. Sleet causes my rotor to freeze up but I free it by rocking it back and forth, hoping that my tribander does not get damaged! Back on the air at 1325Z I worked 6D2DX, FM5CL, KX6OI, HC5EA. At 1356Z I change to 15 meters trying to work Europe through the East Coast stations. I work several Italians, Russians, and other Europeans before switching to 10 meters at 1541Z.

Keeping my beam Northeast, I work 4N2D, GM3BCL, CN8FC, and others. I then work V31BB, PJ9JT, SV2ABQ, K2PS/C6A, J80A, P40V, CU2AK, and TI2DU among others before going back to 15 meters at 1746Z where I work several Europeans. After switching between 10 and 15 meters several times, I have accumulated 227 Q's, and 106 multipliers for a total of 72,186 points at the end of the first day and my highest score to date in this contest!

Contributed by Bill Fisher, KM9P and Edited by K2UFT for fit!

MORE KUDOS

K4UEE set a new world's record on 10 meters in the last CQWW Phone Test from P40R. Bob amassed the highest score ever recorded for a single band.

Deadline - Next Issue - Friday, November 9, 1990

Send me your CQWW Phone Scores so we can get 'em in print.

Didn't see the article you wanted to read? I'm not too good at guessing... my phone number's on the masthead along with my BBS address if you want to send me a file electronically. I don't mind typing up short articles, want ads, etc. but simply don't have the time to type long articles. Send them in hard copy suitable for Xeroxing and they'll make the next issue. My postal address is in the club roster.

SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

CQWW SINGLE-OP COMPETITION

This year the club will again be running a competition that will award a plaque to the single operator with the most points earned for the club. The club plaques give good competition to the CQWW plaques in appearance, and would look great on any wall.

Objective: Earn the most points for the club in the CQWW SSB and the CQWW CW contests. A plaque will be offered for the winner on both modes.

Rules: Follow the CQWW rules. Enter any single-op category.

Reporting: Please send a copy of your cover sheet to Bill Fisher, 1137 Charlie Lane, Lilburn, GA 30247

How should you go about winning the plaque or earning the most points for the club? I would guess one would want to enter the single-op unlimited category offered by the CQWW contest. This category offers the great resources of the packet cluster to find multipliers, and you in return may help our members when you find the rare ones, and announce them for the rest of us. One thing about this category which can be detrimental, is concentrating on only chasing multipliers. The bottom line is the guy who works the most QSO's will win the contest. If you have a good run frequency going, don't go chase ZD8Z on 10meters. He will be there all weekend and it doesn't make sense to lose a frequency over one multiplier that you will work later anyway. Last year the winning single-op all band score was much bigger than the winning

single-op unlimited score due to this fact. ☺

What should I do if I only want to operate 10 or 12 hours of the contest and maybe pick up some new countries? Answer: Europe! Call CQ when the band is open to Europe. Don't be afraid of going high in the band. A clear frequency is much more important than being on 21.202 Mhz. Last year I heard W3LPL and K1AR above 28.800 Mhz working good rates with little QRM. At sunrise and sunset concentrate on the packet spots and the lower frequencies (80, 40, & 20).

One final note on the packet cluster. The first six hours of the contest will be filled with spots. We might want to concentrate on all spots on the low bands and Asia on the high bands. Putting out PJ1B on 10 meters five minutes after the contest starts doesn't make much sense! Basically use your head!

It's called a dipole, and the higher you climb, the better it will work....

