



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB

W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

October 1997

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, Oct. 21st, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

-Paul Hansen, W6XA, President

Time is very short for this but I'll throw something together as best as I can. The most important thing to inform you all about is that Ernie tells me he has Gary Breed, K9AY lined up and confirmed for the October meeting. He will present his talk on the small terminated receiving loops that appeared in the September issue of QST. If you are looking for something to put up on 80 and 160, this might be for you. The antennas don't take up an acre and a half. Since I am so confident that Gary will be there with his presentation, I want to CANCEL the AUCTION for the OCTOBER MEETING (I hope you spotted that, Mike). I really want to do the auction but I don't want to conflict with a speaker because I think the auction will occupy most of the evening. Another reason I don't want to have the auction in October is that I will be dining on lobster and beer and perhaps fish soup in the little fishing village of Lubec, Maine, that week. Even more interesting is that Ernie tells me as he is flying in from California that he will be out of town that week also. Jackpot! Hopefully, we can find some kind hearted club officer to conduct the meeting.

Paul Pescitelli, K4UJ tells me that the club member questionnaire is about to hit the mail. I saw a rough draft of it a couple of weeks ago and I think it touches on all of the important issues. Please mail or fax your responses in as soon as you can. Be ready to continue the discussion started in August regarding membership qualifications and the future of the Southeastern DX Club.

Overheard on the bands last week a couple of openings into FR, FH, VK, and 9M on ten meters. The openings were about 1330 to 1430 z and I am told short path. Also, ET3BN was up on CW for

a short time. The WARC bands seem to be getting all the good stuff with ET, 5X, TT, SU and 9X on pretty regularly. Low bands have been ok with the ZK1 and K7K boys putting in very good 160 and 80 meter sigs a couple of nights. Now, just the VK's and ZL's in the mornings.

That's it for now. Sorry I can't be there for the October meeting. Will be missing all the fun while huddled close to a Maine fireplace with my Michelob and lobster.

-73 Paul, W6XA

FALL IS HERE!! GET THOSE ANTENNAS TUNED UP FOR CQWW SSB AND CW

FROM MR. DX

-Mike Greenway, K4PI

ZK1XXP donations: Anyone considering sending a donation to the ZK1XXP North Cook operation please consider funnelling it through the club. Since one of the participants is a club member, K8XP, Tom, I plan to make a motion at the next meeting that the club match donations up to a certain amount. I feel we need to especially support our members on higher profile DXpeditions.

BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

Great to have the flux numbers staying up there and the band openings that go with that sort of thing. Great finale to summer doldrums with VK9WM, ZK2XXP and K7K. I was reminiscing with a friend that it used to be I was content to work 'em on any band - now I moan about missing the expedition on some band or another! Missed the VK9 on 160 and K7K on 12 meters of all things! This year for me has been an introduction to Propagation Predictions on the computer, thanks to the encouragement of Dr. Dave, KC7W, ex-W0MHS (He's saving his real call sign W7FB for his old age!). It's really interesting to track the actual openings with the predictions. In the case of the ZK2 and K7K I followed the predictions and was near the rig when 10 opened to that neck of the woods and managed to get them in the log.

Hope your antenna work is well underway for the fall season. The WX prognosticators in our shop are predicting a harsh winter for Atlanta. Looking forward to the presentation by K9AY so I can finish up my steerable terminated loops. Looking forward to the auction also, got some junk looking for a new home.

See you at the meeting.

73 de Dick, K2UFT aka "Bif" M0BIF

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 8/31/97 (Checkbook)	\$3034.39
Expenses:	
Outgoing QSL's	\$12.00
September Newsletter	\$45.71
Balance Checking 9/30/97	\$2976.68*

* 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.

We're getting there. The beam is up... that's the good news. The bad news is that there isn't any coax attached. But there still a few more weeks to CQWW. We'll make it. See you at the meeting.

73, Nancy NK4U, Treasurer

SEDXC MINUTES 9/97

-Rick Glisson, N4XMX, Sec.

Paul Hansen, W6XA, President, called the meeting at 7:33 PM. A sign up sheet was passed around. 18 people were present. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published was accepted. Another motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes was made and seconded as well.

Old business: On motion to change the constitution, there was nothing to report from the committee. The survey was delayed two weeks due to computer problems according to Nancy, NK4U. Nancy asked Paul helping to draft a survey letter to be sent to old members. Kiyoshi, AE4EZ, announced that a group of possibly ten members would activate Spratly in February. Paul also announced a sheet sent in to encourage donations for the KH7K DXpedition. A discussion about October's meeting activity was held. The members decided to have an auction at the October meeting with a small percentage going to the club. A reserve price can be set on items.

The person giving the program did not show but Tom Harrell, K8XP, came to the rescue with an excellent report on his upcoming trip to the North Cook Islands. His call would be ZK1XXP. He was actually leaving the next day for the DXpedition! Tom said he had seven members and three stations ready to go. His homepage is www.aurumtel.com/cook.html. All QSL cards go to WA4YBV. Tom also filled us in on all the preparations required to mount such a venture.

Activities report by Dick, K2UFT, included the observation that the sunspots were coming back. Dick also mentioned the ARRL SE Division homepage at www.saf.com/arc/sediv.html.

It was announced that Bob, K4UEE would be at P40R during CQWW. Please try to give him a call.

New business: Ernie, KS4Q, passed out copies of the report from the DXCC 2000 committee. Send your comments to N4MM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

-Rick, N4XMX, Sec.

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.

ARLS031 From ARRL Headquarters Newington, CT
October 3, 1997 SB SPACE ARL ARLS031 ARLS031
Functional Sputnik model set for Mir launch

Plans remain in place to launch a functioning mini-Sputnik from Mir October 4—the 40th anniversary of the launching of Sputnik 1 by the USSR. Sputnik 1 was the first manmade satellite put into orbit around Earth.

Earlier this year, an agreement was signed between Russia and France to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik 1, and two groups of high school students cooperated in building the one-third scale model of the original Sputnik 1. Students in Russia built the satellite itself, while students in France built the 2-meter transmitter that will “beep” from space following its launch from Mir. The mini-satellite flew as cargo to Mir last month aboard a Progress rocket. According to Miles Mann, WF1F, of MIREX, the Mir crew will place the satellite in an airlock on Mir and push it out the door on October 4.

Following launch, the scale model of Sputnik will remain close to the Russian space station. It's estimated that its batteries will hold up for up to two months.

The transmitter will put between 100 and 200 mW into a circularly polarized antenna. The transmitter frequency is expected to be between 145.81 and 145.85 MHz (FM). The audio tone will be at 1.3 kHz but vary with temperature. For more information, see <http://www.oceanes.fr/~fr5fc/angspoutnik.html>.

ARLB059 From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT
October 3, 1997 ARRL seeks changes to CW waiver rules

The ARRL has asked the FCC to change the way Morse code exam exemptions for severely handicapped applicants are handled. The League wants to change the procedural requirements in Part 97 that must be met, prior to granting examination credit.

Under the League's proposed changes, a candidate at least would have to attempt the CW test—with any and all necessary accommodations—before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the

certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing.

In its petition filed September 23, the League said the two “rather minor changes” are needed to restrict the waiver process to use by severely handicapped individuals “for whom the process was intended in the first place and who deserve the substantive accommodation.” The League also said the changes would “stem abuses” of the waiver system without putting unreasonable burdens on examinees.

The CW waiver system has been in effect for seven years. The League says that experience has shown that many applicants without severe handicaps “have abused the process” by obtaining physicians' certifications of inability to pass the telegraphy examination. At present, 8 of those applying through the ARRL-VEC have requested a medical exemption from the higher-speed code requirement. Another large VEC reports similar experience. The League cited “a growing suspicion” in the ham community of anyone who has upgraded by using the waiver route. But the League said this is “completely unfair to those who require and deserve the exemption because they cannot be accommodated by procedural means.”

FCC rules requires volunteer examiners to exercise broad latitude in administering CW exams to accommodate handicapped applicants. Measures include using a flashing light or vibrating surface for hearing-impaired applicants, pausing in sending after sentences, phrases, words or even characters to allow an examinee time to interpret, or even substituting a sending test for a receiving test. Instead, the League observed in its filing, there is “a tendency for applicants to seek exemptions instead” of accommodations.

The League said it believes the procedural changes alone will help to deter those who might abuse the process while still allowing exemptions to deserving applicants.

**CQWW COMING UP!
BE READY!!**