



# Southeastern DX Club

## W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB

November 2011

### President's Report:

Somehow my October chat got caught in the internet's ether and never made the trip to our editor. Some much for those ones and zeros carrying the ball.

During our September meeting Dr. David Hathaway provided us some great insight into the solar past and current activities and the ongoing solar research being conducted. There was a request from one of the meeting's attendees of Dr. Hathaway to see if he could enhance the sun spot count to help stimulate sunspot cycle 23. Don't think Dr. Hathaway was able to send a message to old man Sol but since his visit the solar activity has increased and we are reaping some very good propagation.

Our October meeting was a jointly supported event between the North Fulton Amateur Radio League and the SEDXC, both clubs endeavoring to bring to the area some dynamic guest speakers so that hams and technically minded folks can hear and meet the speakers in a single forum. HamJam2011 brought us Kay Craigie, N3KN ARRL President, presenting what is in the future for ham radio. Our own SEDXC member Tom Rauch W8JL enlightened us to some antenna magic, myths, and then back to reality in selecting antennas. Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ co-founder of Elecraft Company provided those in attendance insight how Elecraft became a ham radio company, evolution from early QRP rigs to the latest available KX3 model .

The terrific door prizes were duly distributed to attendees. Seeing some of our very own

Club members take home some really nice prizes added to a great event.

As members of the SEDXC your joint support of HamJam2011 by attending and purchasing ticket donations, all expenses have been paid and a sizable youth scholarship fund has been raised.

On the DX front, the T32C, Christmas Island DXpedition team gave many of us new bands and mode contacts. Our very own club member Paul, KG4UVU was on the island providing phone Qs.

In the near (state-side) -peditions several of our members participated in the K4L Lighthouse operation on St. Georgia Island, Florida and discovered the conductive properties of salty air on power line insulators and the by-product resulting in very high receiver noise levels. Given that many of the team members are skilled in portable operations they skillfully worked through difficult conditions. They amassed a count just over 2,300 Qs to the satisfaction of many Lighthouse and ITOA enthusiasts.

Fred, WW4LL will be our guest program speaker this month. Fred has been providing the DX and contest segment of our hobby some first class operating facilities. Each contest season Fred seems to have new arrangements at his home be there new rigs and or antennas as Fred fine tunes his stations. Fred will be providing us some helpful pointers on how to set up your own DX/Contest station.

73,  
Jim C. KT4MM

---

## Vice President's Report:

HamJam 2011 seemed to be a great success. I know it takes a lot of work and preparation to make it happen. So a big thanks is in order for those organizers, helpers, and the raffle ticket sellers. Another big thanks to all those attending. I'm sure we'll hear more about the scholarship contributions soon.

### November Program

"Making the Best of What You Have"

Presented by:

Fred Dennin WW4LL

Our November program features our very own Fred WW4LL who will discuss setting up a contest station. Contesting has direct application to chasing DX and everyone is sure to pick up a tip or two to improve their personal ham station and operating practice. You won't want to miss this program.

December we will party until we drop.

Once again this year, our SEDXC Holiday Party will be at the home of Chaz & Gael Cone. An eVite has been emailed to all SEDXC members-of-record. Please RSVP by December 1st; the party will be Saturday December 10, 2011 from 7:00p until 10:00p

January's program will be Wes and Bill sharing some of the "History of DX" Since they were there day one, this should be interesting.

No regular meeting in December.

And don't forget if you hear of, think of, or visit a great program let me know!

It was good seeing so many of you at the Stone Mountain Hamfest?

Norm, WA4ZXV

---

## Secretary Report:

Although I haven't been AWOL, I have been absent to the last couple of club meetings,

executive committee meetings, and even missed HamJam!

Sometimes life gets in the way of necessary diversions like fun and radio, but your faithful secretary has dodged a little of that responsibility in recent weeks and actually played radio – I even learned a few new (to me) things about our hobby and some are even relevant to DX.

I was a fortunate operator to be allowed to visit the recent K4L St. George Island lighthouse activation and expedition. Most of the K4L crew are members of our fine organization and I considered all to be my Elmers. I will not mention all who were present, but I have to shout out a few for adding to my knowledge base:

Paul – thanks for the radio tips! My wife is quite happy that I have a new radio that only costs \$349.

Chris – I finally 'get it' about keyers and N1MM. They are part of my shack full time now.

Bill – the several discussions on both phone and CW techniques on how to manage the cacophony of intimidating sounds when the real pile ups are there! There's nothing like learning how to swim by being thrown in the pool, but a couple of lessons make operating a little easier and definitely more pleasurable.

Rick – Thanks for reminding me that all tasks are easier if you keep in mind that the main goal is to have fun.

Wey – an ultimate gentleman who gives all including encouragement to one and all. The inverse square law is a most important equation, especially for antenna emplacements; Buddipoles rule!

Oh, before I end this wandering diatribe, I must say I finally got some 'real' cw DX and I sent off for the QSL card. I am on my way to DXCC now – one down and 99 to go!

Newt  
N4ewt

---

## Treasurer's Report:

Financial position as of October 30, 2011

The balance on hand in the operating account at the end of October was \$4,990.56.

Activity in the month:

Un-deposited Receipts: (New Member)

Disbursements were as follows: None

I enjoyed seeing you all at the Stone Mountain Hamfest. Thanks to the guys manning the booth. We had one new member joining and 4 renewals.

I hope you have been enjoying the openings on 12 and 10 meters. I have been chasing dx on 12 meters. My country count has gone from 40 confirmed to 92 (all on LOTW). Maybe there is an endorsement sticker in my future.

I will have the IRC's at the meeting.

73 es dx  
Mike, ND4V

---

## Activities Managers Report:

From SEDXC Activities Manager: *Many Thanks* to those members who staffed our table at the Stone Mountain Hamfest on Saturday.

We had one new member sign-up and four people who renewed their memberships.

A half-dozen or more people came by to have QSL cards checked by N4NX.

Respectfully submitted ...  
Wey Walker / K8EAB

---

Here is a notice sent to us by Bob Davies - K7BHM, secretary and Historian for Central Arizona DX Association.

## Central Arizona DX Association Special Event Operation K7UGA

The Central Arizona DX Association is very pleased to announce our Special Event Operation in celebration of the Arizona Centennial during the week of February 13 -19, 2012. We will be using the call of the late Senior Senator, and Arizona native son, Barry M. Goldwater – K7UGA. Individual CADXA members will be operating from their home stations located throughout Arizona during that week using the call K7UGA. However, only special operating locations from Tucson, Prescott and Phoenix will be on the air celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

Operations will be on all Amateur Bands (160 – 2 Meters); and will be using SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31 and Satellite modes.

This CADXA Special Event Operation has proudly received recognition from the 2012 Arizona Centennial Foundation as a sanctioned "Special Event"; and from the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission as an official "Centennial Legacy Project".

All QSL requests go to Bob Davies – K7BHM (qrz.com) with an SASE.

For more details, please go to our web-site at: [www.cadxa\(dot\)org](http://www.cadxa(dot)org)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Feb 13 – Feb 19, 1500Z – 2359Z, K 7 U G A.  
Prescott, Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona – Central Arizona DX Association. Arizona Centennial Celebration: 1912 – 2012. All bands: CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31, Satellite: using late Senator Barry M. Goldwater's Call – K7UGA.

QSL w/SASE to Bob Davies-K7BHM:  
1623 N. Los Altos Ct. Chandler, AZ 85224  
For more details see: [www.cadxa\(dot\)org](http://www.cadxa(dot)org)

---

As most of you know from time to time we print a column by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU. This is a column he actually had for October but, I think it may fit in well with the speaker we have this month.

I often talk to guys who say that they're not contesters. Some even go so far as to say that they hate contests. I'm really not a contester, either, but I do enjoy operating them from time to time. There are several ways to enjoy amateur radio contests even if you're not a "contester."

This weekend, for example, the CQ World-Wide (CQWW) SSB DX contest was being held. As usual for a Saturday morning, I was down at WA2HOM ([www.wa2hom.org](http://www.wa2hom.org)), our club station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum ([www.aahom.org](http://www.aahom.org)). Now, the museum is only open from 10am - 5pm on Saturdays, so there's no way I'm going to score very highly in the contest, but I still decided to participate.

What I did was take advantage of the contest activity to add countries to our DXCC list. Over two hours of operation, I managed to make 63 contacts, including at least five new countries. The new countries that I added to our log included Iceland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Cayman Islands, and Madeira Island.

None of these is rare DX, but for whatever reason, we hadn't worked them before. Now, we have. In addition, some of the big contesters will travel to exotic locales and operate from places that normally have no or few ham radio operators. Contests are good opportunities to get those countries in your log.

Operating in a contest is also a good test of your radio and antennas. It's true that contest

signal reports are basically meaningless, but if DX stations regularly hear you on your first or second call, then chances are your antennas are working well. If they're continually asking for repeats or never hear you at all, it's a good bet that you need to do some antenna work.

Working a contest can also improve your operating skills. In a CW contest, for example, the good ops are generally operating at 25+ words per minute. That's OK, though, because it forces you to copy that fast, and because you know what the exchange format is, you pretty much know what characters to expect. Try it sometime. You'll be surprised at how fast you can copy during a contest and how much your CW speed improves.

If none of the above reasons convince you, and you're still a bit apprehensive about jumping into one of the bigger contests, let me suggest that you try one of the smaller contests. State QSO parties, for example, are a lot more laid back than say the ARRL Sweepstakes. The CW speeds are a lot lower and the phone contacts are a lot less intense. You may even learn something about a particular state's geography. You will for sure learn a lot of county names.

It's all about having fun. And you can have fun in a contest, even if you don't have the time or the equipment to be competitive.

Dan is correct---It's all about having fun!

Now, speaking of fun and games---a question?

How do you put up a 3-element, 40-meter, full size, antenna on a 36-foot boom to 140-feet?

Answer: **VERY CAREFULLY!!!**

Take a look at what was done out at Dave Johnson's antenna farm the Thursday before the CQWW.



**NOW----** Look at this last picture---Is there any question about how Dave lays out such a potent signal from seeing this location.

All photos except the last one are by Gayle Johnson.

---

#### SEDXC OFFICERS

**President: Jim Cummings KT4MM**

[jimmc@juno.com](mailto:jimmc@juno.com)

(770)517-0073

**Vice President: Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV**

[norman@schklar.com](mailto:norman@schklar.com)

(770)840-9664

**Secretary: Newt White N4EWT**

[n4ewt@arrl.net](mailto:n4ewt@arrl.net)

(404)325-5348

**Treasurer: Mike Weathers, ND4V**

[nd4v@comcast.net](mailto:nd4v@comcast.net)

(770)246-0083

**Activities: Wey Walker K8EAB**

**[weymouth01@comcast.net](mailto:weymouth01@comcast.net)**

**(770)205-6902**

**Editor: Jim Streible, K4DLI**

**[k4dli@earthlink.net](mailto:k4dli@earthlink.net)**

**770-993-1767**

**Membership Committee Chairman: Bill Barr,  
N4NX**

**[n4nx@arrl.net](mailto:n4nx@arrl.net)**

**770-399-0824**

**Web Master: Chaz Cone, W4GKF**

**[w4gkf@chazcone.com](mailto:w4gkf@chazcone.com)**

**770-394-2663**

**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**

**DX COMMUNICATION FREQ.**

**Simplex 147.54**

**K4JPD Repeater (tone 85.4 Hz) 147.195 +600**

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

**The club is now using the Repeater on  
145.410, down 600, for chatting and real time  
DX announcements.**

**Join the group there. No tone required**

**SEDXC WEBPAGE**

**[www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)**

**SEDXC REFLECTOR [sedxc@contesting.com](mailto:sedxc@contesting.com)**