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# Bulletin



November 2023

Founded In 1958

## Our Next Meeting & Speaker

**Date & Time:** November 11, 2023

**Location:** HamJam

**Speaker:**

**Topic:**

Please join us for an interesting and entertaining presentation.



**SEDXC Holiday Party – Don't miss it. December 9, 2023. This is only a month from away so register NOW. See hot link: [sedxc.org/sedxc/holiday](https://sedxc.org/sedxc/holiday)**

## From the Prez (de John Tramontanis, N4TOL)



### Hows DX?

As I write this column, the bands abound with DXpeditions.

A25, 7O8, H4Ø, TJ, 4W

These are fine opportunities for some to snag ATNOs and band fills!!!

It was great to see so many of you in person at the Lawrenceville hamfest. Although it is nice to see you all on the Zoom screens, it is even more enjoyable to press the flesh with good friends. Verne, W8BLA and Neil, N4FN commandeered the club table, enlisting some new members and connecting with current members.



Last month's meeting featured an intriguing presentation on DXing on the 6 meter band by Mike Greenway, K4PI. Mike covered operating techniques, antennas to employ, and strategies to take advantage of propagation and band conditions to achieve success chasing DX on the band. Although my antenna situation is limited for 6 meters, I was motivated by Mike's talk to check in on the band more frequently and did snag a new one, PY, just days later.

## Speaking of pressing the flesh with old friends:

**The SEDXC Holiday Party is approaching.** The event will be held at the "Loyal Q and Brew" on 3655 Old Milton Pkwy, Alpharetta, Saturday December 9 from 6PM to 8PM.

Advanced reservations are required. Reservation deadline is November 10th, and we have a cap of 48 attendees. Signups have already begun, so register early before the cap is reached.

There will be great BBQ, great company, and the opportunity to connect with old and new friends in-person!.

To see details for the event and to make reservations, please use the link below:

<https://t-rexsoftware.com/sedxc/holiday/>

Many have asked for in-person activities, well, here is the opportunity. The link below shows the list of attendees, at this time, for the event. Come share some in person company with your fellow DX friends.

[sedxc.org/sedxc/holiday](https://sedxc.org/sedxc/holiday)

In place of our November meeting will be HamJam 2023, on Saturday, Nov. 11th, sponsored by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League, supported by the SEDXC. **HamJam is an event that supports youth in Ham Radio.** There will be three exceptional speakers who will share their experience in Amateur Radio and related emerging technologies. Admission is free, and there will be a raffle of thousands of dollars worth of donated radio and related equipment with all of the proceeds going to the advancement of youth in ham radio. Come out on Nov. 11th and support this effort!

[https://hamjam.info/hmjm\\_wp/](https://hamjam.info/hmjm_wp/)

73 John N4TOL



[sedxc.org/sedxc/DXElmers](https://sedxc.org/sedxc/DXElmers)



## VP's Corner

*(de Nathan Wood, K4NHW)*

### **A Few Word From Our Vice President**

The holidays are officially upon us. And so is the cold weather. This is a good time to inspect your antennas and maybe put another one up! With all of the leaves off of the trees, making that perfect shot over the highest limb will be a breeze! I plan on putting up another 40M dipole and maybe a K9AY RX antenna that I found laying around 🤪. What is on your list?

Last month we had Mike Greenway, K4PI, speak to us regarding 6 meters. He gave an excellent presentation on 6 meters and the possibilities for F layer propagation over the next few months. It seems as if we did have some interesting propagation on 6 meters since that meeting. This has prompted me to put up a 6M antenna (that has sadly been stored in my garage for far too long). I, for one, hope these conditions continue as I will be seeking DXCC on 6 meters. I'd like to hear your personal goals, challenges and accomplishments along the way.

In January, we are excited to have Dick Hattaway W4PID present to us about Clublog. As many of you know, Clublog is more than just a log. It's a HUGE bag of DX

tools for the avid DXer. I will admit that when I was introduced to Clublog, it was intimidating and was definitely a learning curve for me. Once I dove into it, I have learned my way around but I feel that I have only scratched the surface. Join me January 18, 2024 to expand your horizons when it comes to Clublog. Did you know... When DX funding requests are presented to the board for consideration, Clublog is used as a guide to assess the needs of the members of the club. If you are not a part of Club Leagues, your data is not available for us to include.

Did someone mention a Holiday Party coming up in December? ABSOLUTELY! With meetings being over a virtual platform lately, many of you have expressed the desire to meet in person. I, for one, have missed seeing many of you on a regular basis. There is no substitution for face to face interactions. If you share this sentiment.... I need you to do 2 things for me. 1. Mark your calendar for December 9th. 2. Go to the SEDXC page and register you and your guest! The link is on the front page. If you are still on the fence about attending, check out who has already signed up! (The list is linked on the registration page) You may find some people who you haven't seen in a while. I look forward to seeing each of you there!

## SEDXC goes to Curacao!

Have you ever wanted to be on the other side of the pile up but never had a chance? Are you curious about contesting but don't really know where to start? Does the thought of operating a mega station in the middle of the Caribbean interest you at all? **This opportunity is for YOU!**

We have limited openings for a team to go to operate PJ2T representing the SEDXC. This is an entry level DX-pedition that will expose you to the DX side of the pileup. It will also introduce you to contesting and operating with a team-based approach. This is much like the BIG DX-peditions that we read about but without the weeks of travel and tens of thousands of dollars of expenses. And we will have quite comfortable accommodations.



This trip will be taking place from March 25th to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. You will need a passport. (You have time if you apply NOW.) No visas are needed. With a full team, we expect the cost to be around \$1,000 per person plus travel expenses. (as of 10/1, I am finding airfare to be as low as \$600 R/T).

Leading up to the trip, you will receive all training and guidance needed to succeed in your operation. We will have seasoned DXers and testers on board to guide you through the process and to answer any of your questions. There will be ample of time to operate before and after the contest with your own callsign. AND there will be time to go shopping and do all of the other things that tourists do as well.

If this seems like something right up your alley, email me at [nathan.wood23@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.wood23@gmail.com).



## Treasurer's Journal *(de Jeff Cantor, K1ZN)*



Greetings, Fellow DXers!

### **TREASURER's Report – November 2023**

Payments Made, month of October 2023:

1. DXPedition Funding to XW4DX – Laos \$537.75 (\$37.75 – PayPal Fee & Currency Conv.)
2. DXPedition Funding to TJ9MD – Cameroon \$304.99 (PayPal Fee)
3. Postage - \$4.06
4. Website Related - \$198.86

A DXPedition Funding request has been received from LA7GIA, Ken for an activation of Yemen, under the call sign of 7O8AD, which has already begun.

- 7O is # 44 Globally Most Wanted & #49 North America – East Coast Most Wanted
- This will be a two person DXPedition – LA7GIA, Ken & HA5DDX, Shani
- This is a 14 Day Event
- All Modes
- Antennae – Verticals next to Saltwater
- SEDXC Member Needs based on a Club Leagues sample of 28/94:
  - ATNO=10 (36%)
  - Has 1 or 2 Bands – 4;
  - Remainder of sample will benefit with band fills

The EC recommends a grant of \$300.

**Please see the application at the end of this Bulletin.**

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As we move closer to 2024, I need to highlight a few things:

1. I have now served a decade as your Treasurer, and it has been an honor to do so. This past June I agreed to stay in office one additional year with the proviso that a new person come forward to “understudy” the SEDXC bookkeeping process and DXPedition funding application vetting process, etc., so as to make for a seamless transition to a new officer. I call for a volunteer to come forward and begin that understudy.
2. Likewise, our WebMaster has asked for a volunteer to begin that understudy. Please, SEDXC members, we ask for the next generation of officers to step forward.

73s & GUD DX,  
Jeff / K1ZN, Treasurer

**See below a letter from Stan, LZ1GC  
(E6AM )**

Dear John, President of SEDXC  
Dear Nathan, Vice President of SEDXC  
Dear Jeff, Treasurer of SEDXC,  
Dear Members of SEDXC,

I am Stan, LZ1GC ( E6AM ).  
E6AM DXpedition already is history!  
I am very happy that 54 Members of SEDXC  
have contacts with E6AM.  
Attached is the file ( xls format ) with these  
members!  
Next a days ( 1-2 days ), I will do E6AM  
LoTW for these members of SEDXC!

In middle of December, I will send also  
paper QSLs for these members of SEDXC,  
which have QSOs with E6AM.  
I will send the E6AM QSLs in a small package  
to the K1ZN.  
I hope it is OK!  
Thanks for the donation of SEDXC to E6AM  
DXpedition 2023.  
My best wishes to you and all Members of  
SEDXC!  
Kind Regards!  
73! Stan, LZ1GC ( E6AM ).

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**Around The Shack** *(de Hal Kennedy N4GG)*



**November, 2023**

**de N4GG**

**High Power Antenna Tuners  
Clearing the Smoke**

The high power antenna tuner purchase-  
decision is a tough one. Performance and  
cost are major drivers. Cost is cost, but  
when it comes to specifications there are  
no standardized power ratings for tuners.

**Around the Shack**

There are a myriad of tuners to choose from  
which is more confusing than helpful.

There has been a lot written about antenna  
tuners. There has been A LOT of advertising  
supporting the sale of antenna tuners.  
There have been construction articles  
galore – from the 1920s to the present.

Perusing the *QST* archives, I counted over 300 antenna tuner articles.

What needs attention, I think, is an objective treatment of high power tuners' capabilities together with an appreciation, pre-purchase, of why they fail to meet our needs, or, fail outright. High power antenna tuners fail a lot.

High power antenna tuners have taught me that smoke comes in many colors. Rice Krispies are not the only thing that go snap, crackle and pop. High power antenna tuners can sizzle and/or emit a variety of odors. I was told by the co-owner of a popular manufacturer that their repair techs know what parts to replace in a tuner by the smell. They know what to do before the covers come off.

High power antenna tuners tend *not to do* what we wish they would do. Ideally we would like a tuner that can work from 1.8 to 30 MHz (or 1.8 to 54 MHz), handle any antenna impedance that presents an SWR of up to 10:1 and handle 1,500 watts continuously with sufficient margin. The folks at Alpha RF Systems (formerly Alpha Power, ETO and other names) have defined "continuously" well: "Full legal limit, brick on the key, 100% duty cycle, forever."

Some of the blame for failed expectations and failed hardware lies with the

manufacturers' specifications being incomplete and/or rooted in "one-upmanship." When it comes to specifications there are no "terms of art." One manufacturer's "3KW PEP" power handling specification might be less robust than another's "2 KW PEP." The first might be for a 50% duty cycle, the second for 100%. The first might be for an SWR of 5:1 or less, the second for an SWR of 10:1 or less.

Meanwhile, specification and design problems are difficult for manufacturers. In antenna tuner design and operation, at any power level, everything affects everything. As an example, designing a robust tuner for 1.8 MHz requires large variable inductors and capacitors. These parts will have stray inductance and capacitance that doesn't affect operation at 1.8 MHz, but can cause significant loss at 28 MHz. Unusual load impedances can reduce a tuner's power handling ability and/or operating frequency range.

So, what's someone in the market to add a high power antenna tuner to the shack to do?

First, figure out what you need. There are wants and there are needs. If you *want* the ideal tuner (if there is such a thing), count on it being large and very expensive. What you need vs. what you want is a personal decision. What you need is probably

attainable. In particular, decide whether a tuner optimized for the low bands (1.8–7 MHz) or the higher bands (21–28 MHz) best suits your needs. Most tuners cover all the HF bands, but as the recommendation in the next paragraph will tell you, loss can be a major problem at one end of the HF range or the other. Remember, your antennas with an SWR of 2:1 or less don't need a tuner.

Next, I strongly suggest you read the article *QST Reviews Five High-Power Antenna Tuners*, by Jim Parise, W1UK, ARRL Technical Advisor, *QST*, February, 2003. All but one of the tuners tested are still available. The one that's not, the Ten Tec 239B, is the one I like best of the five. I bought two of them for my two-station shack many years ago. They performed flawlessly at 1.5 KW into all sorts of loads. Used ones often come up for sale.

Next, deal with the specifications. A few examples, selected at random, will illustrate how difficult this is. I have faithfully copied the manufacturer's words:

- MFJ 986. Advertising: 3 KW, 1.8-30 MHz. Manufacturer's specifications: 3 KW PEP input, 1.5 KW PEP output for 30-500 ohms. 1.8–30 MHz. Type: Differential-T. \$480.

- Palstar BT1500A. Advertising: 1,500 watts, 1.8-30 MHz. Manufacturer's description: 1,500 watts, 160 – 20 meters 2,500 +/- j 2,500 ohms. 10-15 meters 1,000 +/- j 1000 ohms. Manufacturer's manual: 1,500 watts PEP, 1,000 watts single tone, 2,500 +/- j 2,500 ohms 160 – 20 meters, 1,000 ohms +/- j 1,000 ohms 17 to 10 meters. Type: balanced double-L network. \$995.

- Ten-Tec 238B. Manufacturer's manual: 2 KW maximum. No more than 10:1 SWR, any phase angle, 1.8–30 MHz, 3000 ohms maximum at full power. Type: L-network. No longer in production. \$350 used.



- ACOM 06AT Automatic antenna tuner. Advertised: 1,500 watts PEP, 1.8-54 MHz, Manufacturer's description: Up to 1,200 watts for SWR less than 3:1. Manufacturer's specifications: Matches all load impedances below 3:1 SWR, any phase angle unbalanced. Maximum allowed input power (PEP, mean or continuous carrier, without mode limitation): 1,500 watts SWR 2.5 or less, 1,200 watts SWR 2.5 to 3, 500 watts

SWR 3 to 5, 200 watts SWR 5 to 10. SWR above 10:1 not allowed. Type: unknown \$1600.

- FLEX-Radio Tuner Genius XL. 1X3. (Note: Automatic) Manufacturer's description: 1.8-54 MHz, "Ability to tune 10:1 SWR with the ability to handle up to 2,000 watts." Manufacturer's specifications: 1.8-54 MHz continuous, up to 10:1 SWR, Nominal operating power 2,000 watts. Duty cycle 100% ICAS. Single channel \$2200, SO2R \$2500. Type: Unknown.

My immediate thoughts on typing this up:

1. Wow is this sad.
2. Specs are all over the place. The advertising doesn't match the published specifications in most cases
3. LOTS of weasel-words and nonsensical terms. What does 100% ICAS mean when the "I" in ICAS stands for intermittent? What does "ability to handle..." mean?
4. "High power" is very much an undefined term. 1,500 watts? 2,000? 3,000? PEP or average or continuous? Sometimes as a function of SWR and/or frequency (the right way to do it) but usually not.
5. Automatic antenna tuners in fancy boxes offer no advantage in electrical performance yet cost much more.

Additional thoughts about antenna tuners:

- It is not possible to determine the reliability of any of these tuners. At least one has a known, serious design defect. I have seen two examples arc and short the internal tuning capacitor – the repair was expensive. I have spoken to the manufacturer about this, the response was "it's not worth fixing."

- There are A LOT of tuners to choose from. MFJ offers 37 antenna tuners capable of 200 watts or more. Eight of those are advertised to handle 1,500 watts or more. Some of this is due to MFJ acquiring Vectronics. Through many acquisitions, MFJ seems reluctant to drop redundant products. Just figuring out which high power MFJ tuner is right for you is a chore.

- I have a personal preference for L-Network, manual tuners. There is a long-standing debate about which type is better: L-Network, Tee, or PI. The pros and cons are beyond the scope of this article, but L-networks have only two high-power components, the Tee and PI types have 3. High power components are expensive and are failure prone. Also, Tee and PI networks can, sometimes, be tuned for a 1:1 SWR at two different settings. One is "correct," the other is usually catastrophic. The "bad one" uses internal strays as part of the tuning solution. Although an over-simplification, this is sometimes referred to as tuning the

tuner into itself. You can't put 1,500 watts into a tuner with the tuner being the load.

I don't care for automatic tuners. They don't tell you what's going on. When you tune a manual tuner you can read the inductor and capacitor values off the dials. If this changes over time it indicates a changing antenna. If the values are near the end of the ranges it tells you the SWR on the transmission line is high – that's important to know. Automatic tuners either match or they don't – they provide no information.

Automatic tuners are sometimes fooled in multi-transmitter environments. They hunt and peck in an effort to minimize SWR as measured at the antenna terminal(s). Power from a nearby transmitter will also be at the antenna terminals and the tuner may try to get a match based on that or some combination of the primary and parasitic signals. This happens a lot at Field Day.

Automatic tuners sometimes refuse to find a match under conditions where a manual tuner will.

Automatic tuners are expensive yet offer nothing beyond automation where, in my opinion, automation is of negligible value.

Automatic tuners offer lots of whiz-bang. I'm not into whiz-bang.

*Remote* automatic tuners do have a valuable place in our antenna system designs. As explained in prior columns, the tuner is best placed as close to the antenna as possible.

I hope your antennas tune well and the magic smoke stays inside your box!

73,

Hal N4GG

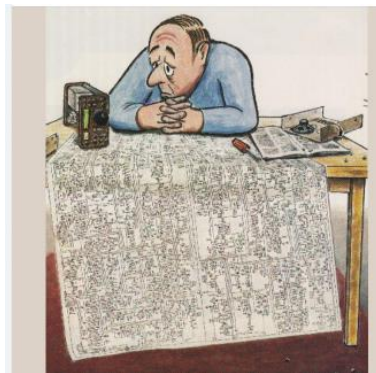


## September Humor

De Neil Foster – N4FN



**They are cute and seem harmless. But, they are loud, incredibly expensive to keep, and absolutely untrainable. The other is a kangaroo. I don't really know much about kangaroos.**



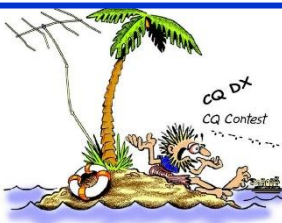
## 25 Years Ago... (de Van Herridge, N4VGE, Bulletin Editor)



A quick note that anyone can submit an article for the Bulletin. If submitting an article, please send it in 14pt Calibri font to <mailto:vanherridge@gmail.com>. The November 1998 Bulletin link is attached below for your enlightenment and enjoyment. Don't forget to check SEDXC's website to get the latest club information,

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

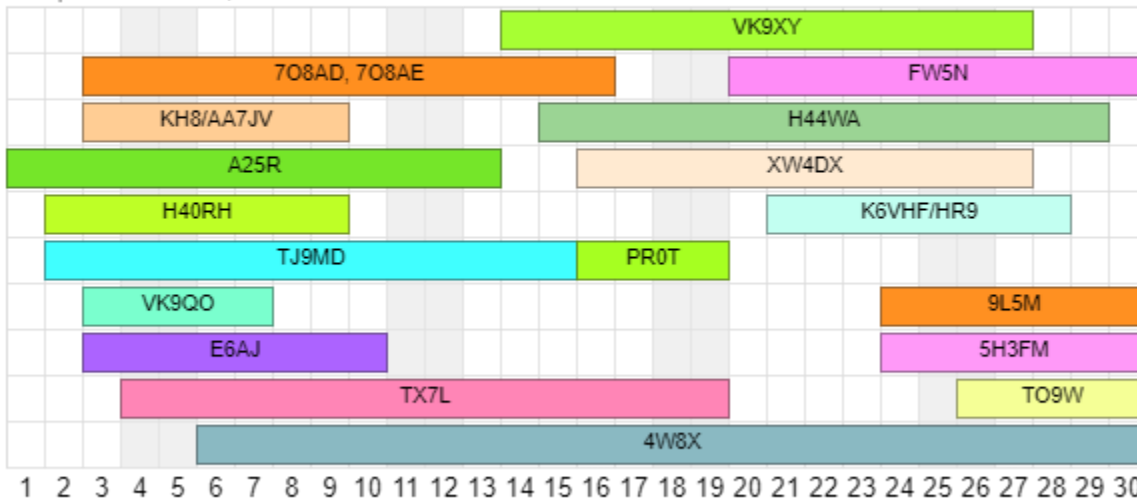
<https://t-rexsoftware.com/sedxc/bulletins/sedxc1198.pdf>



The *DX World* Calendar/Timeline for November

### **DX**WORLD.net FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: November 10, 2023



Edited by MM0NDX

**NOVEMBER**

© IK8LOV Max Laconca

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The *DX World* Calendar features a timeline of all DXpeditions anticipated for the current month and is a great way to plan your chase for the next, All-Time New One (ATNO). The Calendar is updated regularly; use this link to see the latest version:

[http://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw\\_timeline\\_1\\_1.php](http://www.hamradiotimeline.com/timeline/dxw_timeline_1_1.php)

### **SEDXC Officers & Positions**

John Tramontanis, N4TOL – President – [iam4rb@gmail.com](mailto:iam4rb@gmail.com)

Nathan Wood, K4NHW – Vice President -- [nathan.wood23@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.wood23@gmail.com)

Joel Levine, WA4HNL – Secretary -- [jlevine@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlevine@bellsouth.net)

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN – Treasurer -- [jacantor9@gmail.com](mailto:jacantor9@gmail.com)

Verne Fowler, W8BLA – Activities Manager -- [w8bla@arrl.net](mailto:w8bla@arrl.net)

### **SEDXC Appointed Positions**

Chaz Cone, W4GKF – Webmaster – [w4gkf@chazcone.com](mailto:w4gkf@chazcone.com)

Van Herridge, N4VGE – *SEDXC Bulletin* Editor – [vanherridge@gmail.com](mailto:vanherridge@gmail.com)

**Fill out the form completely and send it to:  
Treasurer.SEDXC@Gmail.com**

<b>Entity Name / Call Sign</b>	Yemen / 7o8ad																												
<b>Date of Application</b>	24 Oct																												
<b>Approx. Date and duration of Dxpeditio</b>	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 14 days																												
<b>Web page</b>	N/A																												
<b>Team leader / number of members:</b>	Ken LA7GIA / 2																												
<b>List name &amp; call of each team member</b>	Ken LA7GIA Shani HA5DDX																												
<b>List DXPeditions that each team member above took part in</b>	Ken la7gia 3yøj, tl8, tl7, tt8, 3c, 6o +++ Ha5ddx portable + contest operator SSB only																												
<b>QSL manager / QSL route</b>	M0oxo																												
<b>Funding amount requested – please attach budget &amp; show team’s contribution</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="3">\$500</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Charter fees - airfare</b></td> <td>\$</td> <td>2 000,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Insurance</b></td> <td>\$</td> <td>350,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Licensing fees</b></td> <td>\$</td> <td>300,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Non-Commercial Lodging or Shelters</b></td> <td>\$</td> <td>3 600,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Food and Water Supplies (non-restaurant)</b></td> <td>\$</td> <td>1 000,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>First Aid &amp; Medical Supplies</b></td> <td>\$</td> <td>150,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Generators</b></td> <td>\$</td> <td>1 000,00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>QSL printing</b></td> <td>\$</td> <td>100,00</td> </tr> </table>		\$500			<b>Charter fees - airfare</b>	\$	2 000,00	<b>Insurance</b>	\$	350,00	<b>Licensing fees</b>	\$	300,00	<b>Non-Commercial Lodging or Shelters</b>	\$	3 600,00	<b>Food and Water Supplies (non-restaurant)</b>	\$	1 000,00	<b>First Aid &amp; Medical Supplies</b>	\$	150,00	<b>Generators</b>	\$	1 000,00	<b>QSL printing</b>	\$	100,00
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<b>QSL printing</b>	\$	100,00																											

	<b>QSL mailing</b>	\$ 2 500,00
	<b>SUM</b>	\$ 11 000,00
<b>Send Funds to:</b>	<a href="mailto:kenneth@opskar.no">kenneth@opskar.no</a> paypal	
<b>Position on most wanted list – both global &amp; North America – East Coast</b>	Global: 44  NA-EC:	
<b>Landing permit/operating permission approved (attach copy).</b>	Yes	
<b>Overview of antennas &amp; equipment to be taken on DXpedition</b>	VDA, verticals next to saltwater 160-10m  1xCW, 1xSSB, 1xFT8  3 radios , 14 days , 2 men	
<b>Last time(s) this entity was activated</b>	2012	
<b>Typical interval between activations</b>		
<b>Method of transportation to DXpedition site</b>	Flight, vehicle	
<b>Your team's objective / strategy including social objective</b>	Have fun, working DX from a remote and adcenturous destination - tent &generator trip	
<b>Callsign/Age of youngest Team member</b>		
<b>SEDXC member initiating request</b>		
<b>SEDXC member(s) participating, if any</b>		
<b>SEDXC logo on QSL card &amp; web page?</b>		

	On QSL, we don't have a webpage. Can also be on our facbook page run by Steve N2AJ
<b>Additional comments:</b>	

**Internal Use**

Date published in the newsletter	
Review/analysis of SEDXC Club Leagues member sample (N= )	ATNO:  Band Fills:
Results of member review at the meeting: (approved / disapproved) Recommendation \$_____	Recommended \$_____
Funds disbursed on date:	
Funds disbursed by:	