



# Southeastern DX Club W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB

**MERRY CHRISTMAS – HAPPY HANUKKAH**  
**December 2012**

## President's Report:

It's December and we're sort of in the middle of winter contests. I see several reports of activity and I'm sure there is a lot going on that I don't see. I'm not the best about "butt in chair" but I do enjoy adding a few contacts to my log and turning in a report. One of these days I'll be the only one reporting and maybe win something.

Some of you may be interested in the GA QSO Party results. They should be posted soon. Mike, NE4S, is back in town and helped get the finished scores. There should be something on the web site in the next few days.

From watching the clusters, there seems to be some good dx out there. As well as DXpeditions. I can barely tell it from my QTH. I've been plagued with a very high noise. The electric department (Norcross) did find a bad arrester just down the street earlier this week and I'm in much better shape. It just took a couple months for them to get it high enough on their priority list, but they did and I appreciate their effort.

Holiday party is December 29. More information is on the web site. There is still time to make reservations. TechFest is January 12, and we'll have a table. [www.GARS.org](http://www.GARS.org) for more info. Come by and sit a while. We'll be there from 9:00 until about 2:00.

And, I would like to thank our newsletter editor, Jim, and webmaster, Chaz, for their continued efforts at keeping us up to date on club activities.

Best Holiday Wishes to all.

73 and Great DX  
Norm, WA4ZXV

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## Vice President's Report:

**REMINDER:** The SEDXC Christmas Party takes the place of our December monthly meeting. For details on the party, go to [www.sedxc.org](http://www.sedxc.org)

**2013 PICNIC.** We are already in the planning stage for the SEDXC Picnic. We are looking at public parks and other venues. Constructive suggestions from our members are always welcome.

## HOW'S DX?

The Campbell Island DXpedition (ZL9HR) was on the air before this bulletin was published. Hope you put them in your log. SEDXC is a sponsor of this trip. Details are at <http://www.campbell2012.com>



LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY, 2013

Our speaker for the January meeting is Jim Stafford – W4QO. His program is entitled “One More Time With Feeling! (or why QRP is fun for DXers)”. This should be a very interesting program and a great way to kick-off the New Year.



February’s speaker will be Joe Blackwell – AA4NN, who will tell us just how much it was on Swains Island.



“Season’s Greetings to all ... and to all, Good DX!”



73, Weymouth Walker - K8EAB ...

SEDXC Vice President

## Treasurer's Report:

SEDXC Financial position as of August 31, 2012

Financial Report of Receipts and disbursements:

Beginning balance	10/1/12	\$8,015.71
Receipts:		
PayPal funds		1,900.56
Holiday Dinner checks		600.00
Raffle proceeds		86.00
Disbursements:		
Wey, K8EAB certs & frames		21.39
GARS – Youth lounge donation		100.00
DX Pediton funding		1,200.00
Hays Liability Insurance		200.00
Maggiano’s Little Italy deposit		600.00
Great Lakes Plaques		105.00
Ending Balance	11/30/2012	\$8,375.88

Ham Jam financial results are not final; however, preliminary results are very positive. Looks like about \$3,000 will go to youth activities as a result of this year’s efforts.

DXpeditions funded (above) were NH8S, PTØS, TT8TT, ZL9HR, and V84SMD. Hope everyone worked them.

73 es dx  
Mike, ND4V

## Activities Report:

The HRO Manufacturer’s Day was on **December 15** at the HRO in Atlanta. We had a table set up to promote SEDXC. Hope you had the opportunity, come by and say “hello”. And renewed your membership, or bring a friend to become a new member.

TechFest hosted by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and the Gwinnett ARES will be held on January 12, 2013. The location is the Gwinnett Medical Center, Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. The SEDXC will have a table set up and we anticipate we will have our own Bill Barr, N4NX, available for DXCC Card Checking. See the GARS website, <http://www.gars.org>, for additional information. Hope to see you there.

73 and Merry Christmas,

Bill Tempel, AA4OC

Activities Manager

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One of our former members and longtime DXer, Ed Sleight, K4SB, is in very poor health and is under hospice care. I understand Ed has been fighting lung cancer for some time.

Let us all keep Ed in our thoughts at this time.

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Joel Levine, WB4HNL, sent me this link.

<http://techchannel.att.com/play-video.cfm/2011/3/7/AT&T-Archives-Similarities-of-Wave-Behavior>

It is very interesting to watch.

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Here is another article by Dan, KB6NU, on his Half Wave antenna some of you might find interesting.

KB6NU builds an end-fed, half-wave antenna

I've always been interested in end-fed, half-wave antennas before, but until this recently, I'd never built one. One of the reasons for this is that most designs are for QRP antennas and not made to handle more than 5 – 10 W of power.

A couple of months ago, though, I ran across a design rated at 100 W ([http://earchi.org/proj\\_homebrew.html](http://earchi.org/proj_homebrew.html)). The

design seemed relatively simple to build, requiring only a single toroid and a capacitor made with a short length of RG-174 coax. Well, it just so happens that I bought 100-ft. of RG-174 at Dayton this year, and I found the toroid cores online from the "Toroid King" for a very reasonable price, so I decided it was high time to build one.

All told, the parts cost about \$10, the biggest part of that being a 4-in. x 4-in. x 2-in. plastic junction box (Carlson E989NNJ-CAR) I got from Lowe's for \$6.41. Compare that with the \$60 that LNR wants for their end-fed antenna.

I put up the antenna about three weeks ago, on a beautiful fall Sunday, running 34 feet of wire up a trellis attached to a small deck in my backyard, then out to a tree near the back of my lot. With more than a little anticipation, I put the antenna analyzer on it, only to be somewhat disappointed with the readings. The SWR was 2.6:1 at 14.000 MHz, dropping to about 1.5:1 at 14.900 MHz.

Since the internal tuner on my IC-746PRO is supposed to be good to 3:1, I did use it and made a couple of contacts. A guy in MA even gave me a 599 signal report. So, while I was a little uncomfortable with an SWR so close to the limit of my tuner, it did seem to radiate pretty well.

I e-mailed the guy who published the design and asked why he thought the resonant frequency was so high, and he said that all I had to do was add a couple feet of wire to the antenna. I also did some more reading about end-feds and several websites suggested that adding a counterpoise might be a good idea, too.

A week later, I finally got back to playing with the antenna. I added 24-in. of wire to it, and it did indeed bring down the SWR of the antenna to below 2:1 in the CW portion of 20m. I'm happier with this. I made a couple of contacts that day, too, with both stations giving me good reports.

I still do plan to try a counterpoise. Not so much to improve the SWR, but to see if it makes the antenna a little more efficient.

Overall, this has been a fun project. I learned something about end-fed, half-wave antennas and saved a bunch of money by rolling my own. Isn't that what ham radio is all about?

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Well, that's it for this month and this year. The Bulletin is a little short this month. I guess everyone is tied up doing other things.

73 and everyone have a Happy Holiday Season.

Jim K4DLI

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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.

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Simplex 147.54

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