



Bulletin



December 2017

From the Pres

Mike ND4V

Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, or Festivus (for the rest of us) to all of you. I hope your holiday season is off to a great start. Our holiday party is coming up on the 16th. It is a challenge to find a place that doesn't charge a fortune for the meeting room and who will feed us for a reasonable amount. This year the Downwind Restaurant at Peachtree DeKalb Airport will host us. I know there is a big surprise program in the works but I'm sworn to secrecy. Hope to see you there.

I've been dabbling with FT8. It is an interesting mode but I don't get the same satisfaction when the computer works them. As one of our members commented, it is "kinda like drinking NA beer".

Well, the "why bother" you might ask. Well, with my small pistol station and inverted L antenna, the computer can pick out and piece together stuff that I can't hear. I'm in hopes of snagging the last 10 countries I need for DXCC on 160 this winter. I'd like to hear your FT8 stories during the How's DX portion of our next meeting.

Dick, K5TF has been doing a great job locating programs for us. But we always wonder what you want

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Veep's Report

Dick K5TF

This Month's Meeting

There is no meeting in December. All members are encouraged to attend the SEDXC Holiday Party December 16th. Details can be found at [HERE](#).

73,

Dick K5TF ❖



SEDXC Holiday Party
December 16th
[HERE](#)

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_9REVC4dtc&feature=youtu.be

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From the Pres (cont.)

to hear about. What program topic would help you advance your DXCC count? Send Dick a note or throw it out on the reflector and we will try to respond.

We are mid-way in our club year. Time to start thinking about the election of officers for the next year. If you would be willing to take on the responsibility of one of the club officer slots, just let one of the present officers know.

The leaves are off the trees, time to tweak up the wire antennas. Bouvet will be on the air before I'm ready. And Baker-Howland won't be far behind. Good luck and safe travels to our club members and their fellow travelers who go to such extremes to give us a new one!

73 es gud DX,

Mike ND4V❖

Around the Shack

Hal N4GG

I was thinking; we need a column in the *Bulletin*. I was not necessarily thinking I would write it, but after deliberation I agreed (with myself) that I would do it. This "monthly" musing comes with no guarantees. I'll try not to make things up out of whole cloth and shoot for once a month. I can pretty much stick to the first part of the last sentence. The second part is subject to unknown unknowns.

This month I'd like to introduce a nifty gizmo available from Home Depot, Lowes, and of course Amazon - for very little money (under \$10). I'm an amateur so I call it a grounding block that goes inside a breaker box. Professional electricians call it a 'ground bar' that goes inside a 'load center.'

The picture to the right shows what one looks like. They come in different lengths. A quick tour of the internet yielded pictures of 7, 10 and 20 position "bars." No doubt there are additional lengths to choose from. Inside a breaker box these accept #14 or #16 wire to hook circuits together. They are usually found on the ground side (common and "safety ground") of the AC line, but insulated ones sometimes show up on either hot side of the 240 VAC entrance power. By code, electricians can only place one wire under each screw. For our applications, I don't see that as a necessity.

So, what are these good for besides the purpose intended? Two uses immediately come to mind.



First, every station needs a single-point ground (SPG). No, really. If you don't have one you need one. This is a crucial element in any lightning protection scheme. These grounding blocks make a perfect single point ground point. Run a wire from each piece of gear in the shack to the SPG - this isn't complicated. #14 wire is good - stranded (read: flexible) THHN house wire works fine. Don't forget to run a wire from every computer chassis too.

As an aside, SteppIR control boxes are important to tie to the SPG - they are connected to outside antennas after all. But there is bad news. The case of SteppIR controllers isn't connected to anything - it floats! Connecting a SteppIR controller to the SPG requires a little work and some care. On the ones I have used, I have tied the circuit board ground to the case inside the controller and added a grounding lug to the case. Be careful!!! Another oddity (beside the floating case) in SteppIR controllers is the PC boards have "ground" as the top layer of the board, not the bottom layer like nearly every piece of gear you will encounter. Meanwhile, they might not all be that way - the ones I have seen are, however. Skip the SteppIR control box ground if you are not comfortable working around inside one, but it is an important connection for lightning protection.

So, what else can we do with a load center ground block? If you have or will have radials under an antenna, this makes for an easy connection point. DXEngineering and others sell plates for this purpose, but they are expensive. Meanwhile, the DXE ones are stainless steel and will last nearly forever. I don't know about \$5 load center ground blocks - although they are made of aluminum and should hold up well outside. Or maybe not!

73 es gud DX,

Hal N4GG❖

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Treasurers Journal

Jeff K1ZN

Checkbook Balance: \$11,034

73,

Jeff K1ZN ❖

Bouvet Island (AN-002)

Jeff K1ZN

An article was published in the December issue of RADCOM magazine. It was posted on the SEDXC Yahoo! Group and is attached to this *Bulletin* for those that may have missed it.



DXpedition Funding Requests

None at this time (Editor)

The most desolate and remote IOTA on the globe: Bouvet Island, AN-002

January 2018 will mark the tenth anniversary of the last DX activation of Bouvet Island, AN-002 by ZS6GCM operating as 3Y0E. Presently, Club Log shows Bouvet as the #2 Most Wanted.

Bouvet Island is 54.33° south, 3.28° east. The IOTA Directory lists the island as one of the Norway-Antarctica group – AN-002. As a sub-Antarctic entity in the Atlantic Ocean, it is 2,700 miles from the southernmost tip of South America and 1,000 miles from Antarctica. The uninhabited island is 97% ice covered. Temperatures can range from -25°C to -65°C, with wind chill possibilities. Summer occurs in late January and early February. Temperatures then are typically between 0 and 4°C. Politically, Bouvet Island is a Norwegian dependency. It serves as a nature preserve with one operating weather station.

The 3Y0 IOTA history is interesting. Over the last half century, there have been six operations on the island. The earliest history on the island recorded by IOTA Ltd is Gus Browning, W4ECI (SK) in 1962. The most recent by Petrus, ZS6GCM, operating as 3Y0E in 2008. Dr Chuck Brady, N4BQW (SK) went to Bouvet Island in 2000. Others include 3Y5X (LA1EE & others) in 1990; 3Y1VC (LA1VC) 1979; 3Y5DQ (Thore, LA5DQ) 1978.

The team

Planning and administering a DXpedition to such a place requires seasoned and tested DXers. Therefore, it is no surprise that this undertaking, 3Y0Z, is headed up by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, Ralph Fedor, KOIR and Erling Johan Wiig, LA6VM, the same leadership as for the Peter 1 DXpedition of 2006. Ralph and Bob were on Navassa and Amsterdam Island as well as the HKDNA, Maple Island DXpedition in recent years.

This event will take place around the last week of January 2018 into mid-February.

The team will sail from King George Island for a 10 – 12 day voyage to Bouvet Island. The plan is to remain active and on the air on the island for between 14 to 16 days.

The team consists of 20 seasoned and experienced operators recruited from around the world. Twelve are from the USA, two from



3Y0Z, is headed up by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, Ralph Fedor, KOIR and Erling Johan Wiig, LA6VM.

Asia, one from Canada and five from Europe. Additionally, there are five pilot stations and other support people, in areas of IT and web; fundraising; propagation prediction (Stu, K6TU) and, of course, the QSL manager (Bob, N200).

The operators are Nodir, EY8MM; Pista, HA5AO; Hal, JR4OZR; Ralph, KOIR; Bob, K4UEE; Craig, K9CT; Erling, LA6VM; Just, LA9DL; George, N4GRN; Arnie, N6HC; Jim, N9TK; Jeff, NM1Y; Michael, PA5M; Hawk, SM5AQD; Keith, VE7KW; Glenn, W0GJ; Gregg, W6IZT; Paul, W7IV; Hal, W8HC and Jerry, WB9Z.

Travel

Travelling from around the world, the group will come together in Santiago, Chile. They will then take a 3½ hour flight to Punta Arenas, followed by a flight across Drake Passage to King George Island. Finally, a week and a half boat ride to Bouvet Island. A vessel owned by Chilean firm Aerovias DAP, carrying two helicopters, will be used for the voyage. The helicopters will scout out the best radio station site, then transport equipment and supplies onto the island. DAP was the firm used for Peter 1 some years earlier. To reach the island, they will need to anchor off-shore. The operators will be lifted onto the island by helicopter.

Planning

This activity began in 2007, when team leadership first secured the operating licence and landing permit. Training took place the week of 9 September 2017 in Atlanta, GA. Topics included discussions of frequencies to use; splits and limits of split; DQRM practices; numbers of hours per shift; best folks for each band and mode; housekeeping duties; sleeping quarters; food supplies. They practiced with the EME equipment, ran the generators, took inventory and packed shipping containers. Additionally, they got to know each other, and for many, the new folk.

Propagation

Propagation prediction videos were created, based upon the work of Stu, K6TU for the eight HF bands plus 60m. The predictions were based upon US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration sunspot estimates for January 2018 timeframes. These videos are currently operational on the 3Y0Z website under the Propagation bullet.

The operating site on the island will be on

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