



Bulletin



December 2018

From the Pres



Dick K5TF

I want to say thank you to all who have helped to make the 60th year of SEDXC the success that it has been. It is an honor and privilege to have served as Vice President with Mike Weathers at the helm during part of the year, and then to have been nominated and elected President of the club. My first six months in that capacity have been good, in spite of the fact that the VP slot remained vacant. This is due in large part to the experience and support of Jeff, Paul, and Norm, as well as those members who have provided our excellent programs, and who have suggested and helped to arrange programs. If you have not served before in the leadership of SEDXC, please give serious thought to stepping up for the VP position. It's only for six months, you will have a lot of help with programs, and will not be left alone to either sink or swim.

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SEDXC Hall of Fame Award Jim Kauten W4TE



Front (L-R) Harry Saunders W4KJ, Jim Kauten W4TE
Rear (L-R) Mike Greenway K4PI, Bill Barr N4NX
Harry, Mike, and Bill are previous HOF Award Winners

The following is a transcript of the comments by Mike Greenway, K4PI at the presentation of the award to Jim Kauten, W4TE. The transcript was received from Paul Kelly, W4KLY--*Editor*

"Good evening to everyone. I was asked to be on a Committee along with Harry Saunders, W4KJ, Bill Barr, N4NX and Ken Byers, K4TEA, to consider the selection of an inductee into the Club's Hall of Fame: the Club's most prestigious award.

Several good options of club members were considered for this honor, but in accordance with the rules associated with this honor only one inductee is allowed per year.

In the Club's 60 year history this award has only been bestowed 24 times!

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The Holiday Dinner held last week at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant was a big success. I commend the restaurant staff for their outstanding service, and for the superb buffet that had many of us returning for "seconds". A number of you have already indicated to me your preference for this venue again for next year's Holiday Dinner. Heartfelt thanks to Mark Holmes KJ4VO, Manager of Ham Radio Outlet Atlanta, who donated a gift certificate to the club's Holiday Dinner. Congrats to Dale Schwartz K4ROZ who had the winning ticket. Please support your local HRO, and be sure to tell Mark that you are a member of SEDXC.

The highlight of the evening was the induction into The Southeastern DX Club DX Hall of Fame of Jim Kauten, W4TE. The club owes so much to Jim for his leadership over three terms as President, and for arranging for the club's use of outstanding space at Piedmont Hospital for our meetings. Read the report by Mike Greenway, K4PI, DX Hall of Fame member and chair of the selection committee. Congratulations Jim, from all of us.

In closing, we are moving forward on an excellent line-up of programs for the coming year, and welcome your suggestions. January will be a Show and Tell, always a lot of fun, and a great way to start the year.

Holiday Greetings to all of you, and may your new year be filled with DX.

73,

Dick K5TF ❖

Treasurer's Journal

Checkbook Balance as of December 1, 2018: \$11,645.

73,

Jeff K1ZN ❖

Announcements

None--Editor

SEDXC HOLIDAY PARTY 2018



SEDXC OFFICERS

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Club Communications

SEDXC Webpage: www.sedxc.org

SEDXC Chat Room: details on webpage

SEDXC Reflector: details on webpage

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SEDXC Hall of Fame Award (cont.)

The inductee this year met all of the stated qualifications, one of which is being on the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll. He presently has 337 DXCC countries credited.

The most important criteria is service to the club over time. Our inductee truly shines in this area. Having served three terms as President.

He also served in the Treasurer position and for a while as both President and Treasurer.

And if that were not enough he was personally responsible for securing a top notch meeting location at Piedmont Hospital for Club at zero cost!

Because of His continued involvement and oversight we have been using that location for over 16 years. That is truly a great feat.

He is a very ethical and accomplished DXer and has been a great asset and friend to the Southeastern DX Club.

For all of this and more, the Committee has unanimously selected Dr. Jim Kauten (W4TE) as the 2018 Southeastern DX Club Hall of Fame Inductee. Along with me and the Committee please welcome Jim into the Southeastern DX Club Hall of Fame".

Mike Greenway, K4PI

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Around the Shack **by N4GG**



Learning Morse Code the Easy Way

This month's column will not attempt to sway you toward learning "the code." You may want to, you may not. Or you may be in-between, where you think it would be fun or rewarding to learn the code, but only if it's not a hassle, can be done at your own pace, and fun. There is such a way. If you are an old hand at CW you may want to read on – hopefully you will find a willing candidate to teach and this might be helpful.

There are a variety of teaching methods for CW and if you Google the subject there is lots to read. You will come across something called the Farnsworth method, and there is also a Koch method. There are lots of methods. I think strict adherence to any of the "methods" may not be the best way to get started. Diving into the intellectual side of "how to learn it," may not be ideal either. The Nike slogan comes to mind: "Just Do It!"

When I finished writing this column I realized I needed to add a paragraph...right...here. Failure at leaning the code is a scenario I seldom contemplate, so I almost forgot to mention it. You can't fail. If you can read this, you can't fail. If you can speak the English language or any language, then you can learn the code. Morse code is orders of magnitude easier to learn and use than English is. I don't know how the idea of "I can't learn the code" got started. A person can quit, but there is no brain-wiring that I'm aware of that prevents a person from learning what is essentially a very, very simple language compared to English. Put failure out of your mind. You can quit but you can't fail. Everyone can learn Morse code.

Here is the "N4GG method," but that's something of a misnomer – there is almost no method to it at all. While I did have an instructor help me, this is how I, for the most part, learned the code. My suggestions:

- Learn from the ARRL code practice sessions that are sent on the air, Monday through Friday, four times a day, from W1AW in Newington, CT. The times, frequencies and code speeds are all available with a Google search of "W1AW code practice." Twice a day W1AW sends at 5 WPM – start with that. The 5 WPM code sessions last about 5 minutes. Catch one session a day if possible, but every other day is fine too. This is not time consuming. There are computer programs that will send you Morse code – they are fine too, and "Morse Runner" is a particularly good one. I like the idea of starting right out copying off the air. That is the end-goal after all, and it seems to be more rewarding than copying from a computer. As a bonus, should you not be skilled at getting every bit of performance out of a receiver – this is the way to do it. You will learn about tuning a receiver, fading (QSB), QRM, QRN and all the rest. Start real-world! Also, W1AW sends plain text, straight out of QST magazine.
- Begin with one letter, I suggest "S." S is three dots. Here is the entire N4GG method: at 5 WPM, every time you hear three dots write down S. Go through several code practice sessions just picking out S from the rest of the jumble. After three or four sessions picking out Ss, add a letter. "O" is a good second letter. O is just S made of dashes instead of dots. Write down S and O every time they go by.
- When you are doing great at getting the Ss and Os, add a letter. Keep going until you are finished. That's it – that's the method. It's fun this way.

CW continues to be in heavy use for everything from rag chewing to serious DXing. CW has a big advantage over SSB in signal to noise ratio and advantages over FT8 when there is significant QSB. It's worth learning and YOU CAN DO IT.

73,

Hal N4GG ❖

DXpedition Funding Requests

None at this time--Editor