



Bulletin



December 2020

From the Prez



Dick K5TF

Seasons Greetings from the Board to each and every member of the Southeastern DX Club and to your families. This has been an unusual year, but it is now nearly behind us as we look forward to the New Year. A lot of Good News is at hand, so let's see what's up.

Please ZOOM in Thursday, December 17 at 7PM to hear SEDXC member Bernie McClenny, W3UR of the Daily DX. Bernie has published this superb resource since 1997, and The Weekly DX, and in addition, has edited QST's "How's DX?" column since 1998. We are so fortunate to have Bernie present our December program. The ZOOM ID number is 398-473-2518, and we will gather starting at 6:50 PM.

Our Vice President, Mike Weathers, ND4V, is now at Grady Hospital where he continues treatment following a recent infection. Keep Mike and his wife Connie in your thoughts and prayers.

This Month's Meeting

Date/Time: Thursday December 17th @ 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Telemeeting

Info: www.sedxc.org

Topic: How's DX?

Speaker: Bernie McClenny, W3UR

VP's Corner



Mike ND4V

As noted in the comments from Dick, Mike is in the hospital at the time of this issue of the Bulletin. We hope all that he recovers quickly and will return next month—Editor

Around the Shack de N4GG



Traditionally, the apology goes at the end. But I have moved it here, up front, due to the exceptional liberties I've taken with one of the world's most beloved Christmas stories.

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From the Prez (cont.)

We did not even consider the Holiday Dinner this year for obvious COVID-19 related reasons, but will continue to monitor this with the thoughts of a "Back to Normal" post-pandemic gathering when appropriate.

Pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of the SEDXC, as amended, I am pleased to announce the formation of a Nominating Committee to select for nomination the 2021-22 slate of SEDXC Officers. Those who have agreed to serve are seasoned DXers, many of whom have served in leadership positions in the club. Those who will serve include John Tramontanis N4TOL, Mike Greenway K4PI, Bob Allphin K4UEE, Nate Wood K4NHW, and Norm Schklar WA4ZXV.

73,

Dick K5TF❖

Treasurer's Journal

Note: No update received at press time. Full update in January--Editor



Around the Shack (cont.)

Dear Charles Dickens,

I mean no offense. It's your story alright, although it might be hard to recognize. I'm a ham operator you see, and, well, we hams have our own perspective. I'm relating a dream, as I dreamt it - that's my alibi. Thank you for the inspiration, wherever you might be. Maybe we could have a QSO sometime?

You may recall in *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his long-deceased business partner, Jacob Marley, who warns of pending visits by three spirits. On board so far? Good.

In my dream, the business partner isn't Marley's ghost, it's Mosley's ghost. Mosley looks a lot like Hiram Percy Maxim. Mosley warns me I am about to be visited by three spirits. The spirit of ham radio past, the spirit of ham radio present and the spirit of ham radio to be. Mosley tells me it could be a rough ride and I better pay close attention. Unlike Marley's ghost, who appeared in chains, Mosley's ghost was covered in Noalox. In my dream I sent Mosley's ghost an SWL card via the bureau.

I was looking forward to the visit from the spirit of ham radio past and it did not disappoint. Bill Halligan, founder of Hallicrafters, played the role of the spirit. I've never seen a picture of Bill Halligan, so in my dream he looked like Art Collins. There might have been some wish-bias going on - Collins gear was wildly out of my reach during ham radio past. Bill showed me myself as a teenager; just getting started in ham radio. There was my first shack (Figure 1).



WV2QPW (N4GG) c1961
Figure 1

SEDXC OFFICERS

President

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Vice President

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SEDXC Bulletin Editor

Clark Macaulay, WU4B
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Membership Committee Chairman

Bill Barr, N4NX
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Webmaster

Chaz cone, W4GKF
w4gkf@chazcone.com

Club Communications

SEDXC Webpage: www.sedxc.org
SEDXC Chat Room: details on webpage
SEDXC Reflector: details on webpage

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Around the Shack (cont.)

Two of my first antennas are shown in Figure 2. A snow-covered V was anchored to a hole I chopped in my mom's roof. The roof leaked after that. My attic shack was freezing; not warmed much by the tubes in my DX-20 and SX-110.



The WV2QPW Antenna Farm
V-Beam Cause Roof Leaks
Figure 2

There were sunspots galore – a distant memory gratefully refreshed. But Bill had something more important to show me than the fun times I'd had as a crystal-controlled novice. He showed me what ham radio past WAS.

Hams were faultlessly polite on the air. And just as polite off the air too. AM carriers caused a lot of QRM, but none of it was deliberate. The FCC was for real. You could get a "pink ticket" for any number of infractions. There was enforcement. The Citizens Band had just begun. CB'ers used call signs assigned by the FCC. They all ran five watts and they stayed put on 11 meters. Everyone knew CW – you had to, to get a license. Everyone built things; antennas, transmitters, receivers. QSTs were saved until bookcases collapsed. No one, ever, discussed religion, politics or their financial situation on the air. That happened without much thought – it was obviously rude to do such a thing. Besides, ham radio was about ham radio.

Ham radio past was everything a person could want. It was fun, educational, and exciting. It had a strong social component too. There were lots and lots of radio clubs. Everyone went to Field Day and drank coffee, beer and Nehi Orange.

Around the Shack (cont.)

Just as I was enjoying ham radio past, spirit Halligan vanished in a flash of blue lightning. The smell of ozone hung in the air.

Soon, the spirit of ham radio present appeared. Bob Heil reprised the role. At that point Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim also appeared but in my dream they had changed form. Cratchit's name was Hy Cushgain and his good-natured but invalid son was named Heath. Tiny Heath was a sorry figure, ailing to the point of dropping out of ham radio. Cushgain was still active but growing weary. As always, hams were Scrooge-like.

Cushgain and Heath's ailments aside, I was doing fine in ham radio present. I had a good station and central heat and air conditioning. My call sign was short. But as before, spirit Heil told me it wasn't about me – he had come to show me what ham radio present WAS.

Things had changed! Technology had leapt ahead. HF rigs didn't drift anymore and high power was easily attainable. CW was now optional, as was a log. Digital modes had arrived and ham rigs and computers were tightly integrated. Manned and unmanned artificial satellites were on the air! Computers made QSOs with other computers with negligible human interaction on HF, VHF and even UHF, with text replacing voice.

A big change had occurred in operating style. The barriers to entry were gone. Demonstration of technical and operating skill was no longer required to obtain a license, though it could be argued needed more than ever. You could buy all your gear, antennas included.

There was a dark side. Stretches of spectrum like 75-meter phone were occupied by the rudest of the rude. Denizens of the dismal frequencies were abusive toward one another and anyone who wandered by. Deliberate QRM was present and running excessive power was, for the most part, not looked down upon.

The FCC was a hypothetical. Hams were left to license themselves and police themselves without the means to do so.

Still, overall, ham radio present was fine. You could have a nice rag-chew style QSO if you wanted one. QSOs were plentiful on CW, SSB, VHF and, strangely, on AM. Like vinyl records, AM had returned and was in the hands of good operators. WinLink, DSTAR and VHF netting had taken off and ham's ability to aid in an emergency had never been better.

Ham radio was keeping pace with technology – a good thing. New skills flourished. Using satellites required skills and those skills were rewarded with memorable QSOs. Old timers from ham radio past mingled with those from the newest parts of ham radio present with mutual curiosity more than animus. It is said there are two kinds of companies: those that are changing and those that are going out of business. Ham radio present was changing much faster than ham radio past had, but it was that or become irrelevant. Spirit Heil was right in the middle of it too. He knew just what to show me.

I was feeling a little behind at that point and then noticed collecting gear from ham radio past was a popular ham radio present pastime. A lot of it was brown from cigarette smoke.

Ham radio present had something for everybody. Gear ranged from boat anchors to advanced DSP and SDR radios. Frequencies ran from 137 KHz to terahertz. EmComm, DXing, contesting, award chasing, experimenting. DIY construction was alive, much of it centered on antennas. Modes? CW, AM, SSB, FM, ATV, SSTV, innumerable digital formats with more on the way.

With all those positives however, something was bothering spirit Heil and myself. The 75-meter phone mess was on my mind. It needed attention and the FCC was AWOL.

With trepidation I wondered what ham radio to be might be like. The answer came soon enough. Spirit Heil vanished in an ear-splitting cacophony of distortion. A ruptured speaker cone was all that remained.

Then, the last apparition arrived – the spirit of ham radio to be. The spirit took the form of Wayne Green, W2NSD/1.

My station wasn't a station anymore – it was a box with no knobs. The box had a solitary connection – a cable that carried power and data to another box. I had no antennas any longer – I didn't seem to need any. Wayne helped me get a handle on it all. My featureless boxes were hooked to other boxes, far, far away. The connection wasn't via RF. The boxes were connected via the interwebnet. The distant boxes were hooked to antennas, so there was still some RF, somewhere. I could get DXCC credit for contacts made with “my rig,” located 3,000 miles away. That sure seemed odd.

Spirit Wayne kept the script on track of course – it wasn't about me or my DXCC total – it was about what ham radio to be WAS. It was unrecognizable to an old timer. The “Interwebnet of things” was ubiquitous. Some ops were emitting RF, but many were not. Home stations, ones consisting of a rig and on-site antenna(s) had become rare.

The FCC had dissolved. The ARRL was still around, its primary function being the issuance of licenses for a fee some thought exorbitant.

The loudmouth crowd on 75 meters had spread to 40 meters, but they were still held in contempt by all but themselves. That was good – sort of.

Hy Cushgain and poor Tiny Heath had passed away, leaving a sorrowful void for those with memories of ham radio past.

I'd seen enough! Wayne, be on your way! I made up a conspiracy theory about Wayne turning into a Chihuahua if he stayed any longer and he believed it (that was easy). Wayne split the scene but remnants of spirit Wayne lingered for a long time in the form of moldy magazines.

My Ham Radio Christmas Carol dream was coming to an end.

Mosley's ghost appeared once more and I asked the question Scrooge had asked of Marley. Must it be this way? Is the future set in stone? What can be done to make the future not be what I had just seen the future to be?

Dickens had it easy. Scrooge changed and so the future changed as well. But, *A Christmas Carol* is a novel and Scrooge was one person. Ham radio isn't fiction and there are a lot of people involved.

Mosley's ghost answered my question as best he could. “Lead by example,” he said. “Be faultlessly polite. Never sink to the level of the miscreants. FOLLOW THE RULES. Limit your power and your language. Learn what makes it work and teach others. Ham radio follows society to a degree. Societies swing back and forth.” “Keep the faith,” Mosley told me. “A more civil society is around the corner. Incorporate civility into ham radio and all will be well. Ham radio is evolutionary - the new builds on the past. Learn it all! Do it all! Embrace change!”

Mosley's ghost dropped some hints about what ham radio to be might be like if we all kept the faith. Tiny Heath didn't perish after all – he started making kits for beginners, just as in times past. True to his roots he had a side business making beanie propellers. Hy Cushgain was taken in by an affable and generous fellow named Marty, who ran a mighty fine company.

The 75 meter phone guys had mostly died off from cirrhosis of the liver. Some of the rest were too slow to figure out how to hurl insults digitally. Still others lost interest. Attention, the fuel that keeps folks like that going, had disappeared. Nobody cared about their antics any longer. The stragglers wound up in old-folks homes doing the chicken dance.

My dream ended on a hopeful note. If we listened to what Mosley's ghost had said, it would be okay.

As I awoke, I heard Tiny Heath exclaim: “God Bless us Every One!”

*With Optimism and Hope for our Beloved Hobby and 2021,
Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays from N4GG and family....*

Ha! N4GG❖

DXpedition Funding Requests

None at this time--Editor



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

December 1995

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Tuesday, December 19th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Steve Schmidt, KR4DL, President

As this newsletter goes to print, we have just finalized our selection for the club's representative at WRTC-96 (the second World Radiosport Team Championship) to be held in San Francisco the weekend of July 13 and 14, 1996 in conjunction with the IARU HF World Championship.

The contesters in the running were Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and John Laney, K4BAI. Bill, KM9P, withdrew his application. Both John and Bob expressed an interest in attending as the club's representative and submitted resumes to me for use by the selection committee. I was, basically, awed by the listed experience in both resumes. We have some real heavyweight contest operators in the club! It was a very difficult decision; the committee expressed some frustration that we couldn't award both candidates a selection.

John Laney, K4BAI is the choice to represent the Southeastern DX Club in the WRTC-96. His resume included twelve (12) pages of high-scoring contest results, both foreign and domestic. His list of #1 finishes in the ARRL Sweepstakes alone stretches back to 1956. The committee agreed to make Bob Allphin, K4UEE the choice as first alternate in the event John is, for some reason, unable to go. Realistically, Bob will not likely be available if that time comes. With at least six World Records under his belt, one stillstanding, he is a prime candidate for an at-large Team Leader position and would certainly be a terrific partner for another Team Leader. I am very proud to be associated with both of these outstanding contesters and only wish the honor could go to both members.

Speaking of contests, I made a low power CW

effort in the ARRL 10 Meter contest again this year; that band is now truly dead. It almost seemed the brief openings were to specific states! Conditions were much worse than last year. I suppose it's time to focus on the lower bands. Are you working on your 160 meter antennas? I'll be looking for some commitments for high scores in the CQWW 160 contests. I was surprised to see how few entries were listed in the results for last year's 160 CW contest. We'll discuss this some more at the meeting. I wish you all the best of the holiday season and a happy new year.

Hope to see you tuesday night.

73, Steve, KR4DL

FROM THE VP

by Sonny Marsh, KE4LDJ, VP

Hello everyone. Each organization must have new members to sustain itself, and that is certainly true in amateur radio. I don't know how you got started in this hobby, but I got involved in a special program when I was away at prep school. My amateur radio background and interest in electronics had a strong bearing on the directions my life has taken.

At Tuesday night's meeting our speaker will talk to us about getting our younger folks into radio. One of our members, Jim Stafford, W4QO, will cover ways to involve youth in amateur radio, specifically the "RadioACTIVE™ Schools Program". Jim was the 1992 ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year, and the 1994 AEA Amateur Ambassador Award recipient.

This program should be of interest to all of us. Hope to see you there.

-73, Sonny, KE4LDJ

MINUTES, SEDXC MEETING 11/21/95

-Buddy Harrell, W4OUN, Sec.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:55 PM. There was a late start time because of problems getting service in the restaurant. After the usual round of introductions, everyone was requested to sign the attendance list. It was motioned, seconded, and approved that the minutes from the last meeting be accepted.

It was sadly reported that AD4NQ is a Silent Key, victim of a tower climbing accident. There was discussion of donations for a fund in his memory. A decision on matching funds will be voted on at the next meeting. There should be additional information about this elsewhere in the bulletin.

Development of a membership list is currently in process.

NEW BUSINESS

A question was raised concerning the purpose of Packet Cluster fund, whether it is included in the club balance, and which of the sysops benefit from the fund. It was decided to defer further discussion of this item until Nancy is present.

Because of the problems with service at the restaurant, there were discussions of an alternate meeting place. Steve indicated he is still looking for a possible site. Bob Allphin is also to check on a place he is aware of.

The WRTC team championship is coming up. The SEDXC has been invited to participate. A team captain must be selected by December. The three nominees for this position are John Laney - K4BAI, Bob Allphin - K4UEE, and Bill Fisher - KM9P. It was decided that the club officers would make the selection on behalf of the club. Resumes must be received from all parties within ten days so the selection committee can review qualifications and make a decision by the deadline.

K4UEE presented an excellent program on his Easter Island Dxpedition.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 PM.

73 & DX, Buddy, W4OUN

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Nancy Draheim, NK4U

Balance 10/31/95 (Checkbook)	<u>\$2616.15</u>
Income:	<u>\$111.00</u>
Expenses:	
Newsletter	99.89
CEØZ	45.00*
Balance Checking 11/30/95	<u>\$2471.26</u>

* Remainder of member's donations.

Best wishes for a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Peaceful New Year to all.

73, Nancy NK4U

BEEPS DE K2UFT

-Dick Bentley, K2UFT, Activities Director

Join us at the Holiday Party on December 19. To make it fun, select an item from your junk box, preferably something that defies description, wrap in holiday wrap and bring it to the meeting, placing it on the table provided therefore. You will then pick a number out of the hat.

At the time for gift exchanging, when it's your turn you will either open a gift or "grab" a previously opened gift from another member. The "grabee" then gets to open another gift or grab a different previously opened gift.

As you can see, after about 30 or so rounds of this, mayhem will ensue, but its great fun for all and you've gotten rid of an unwanted junk box item.

Hope to see you next Tuesday.

-73 Dick, K2UFT

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DX TIDBITS

-Rick, N4XMX

Contest time again!! I told myself that I would try to pick up some low band countries during the next dew contests. The more I holler on SSB, the more I like CW contests!

During CQWW SSB, I made a point of trying to work Mike, K4PI, down at P49I on 160. Very unusual for Mike to be in a phone contest but I had P4 on everything except 160 phone. Mike had announced he would be doing a 160 single band so this was my chance. By the time I got to the radio Saturday night, P49I was rising and falling into the noise. He would rise up, work a few stations, and fade away. After 10 minutes of calling, he finally heard me! Of course he said I was going up and down as well.

Except for a few alligator stations down in the Caribbean, it was pretty quiet on 160 meters. Still breaking in the neighbors, so kept the power around 1 KW.

On the other hand, 40 and 80 were very good and crowded. I heard and worked people on 80 I didn't know I could hear. Worked some EU, one call between the massive pileups of the M/M. Picked up about nine band countries in a short time.

Worked an ET on 20 just because a few years ago, it was unthinkable. Similar to the ZA on 40 which I did not get. SU2MT had a very good pileup going on 40, too good in fact for me to get through!

As time went by though during the day, I couldn't resist a quick run up 15 meters to EU to just work everyone I heard, F, G, EA, IK's, it didn't matter. I do make a point of working those who are good QSL'ers or managers.

I was visiting my folks in Richmond during Thanksgiving this year and so stuck my toes in CQWW CW at his QTH. My dad lives on the top of a hill and has proper dipoles for 40 and 80 meters. Hard to beat! Nothing for 160 but I'm working on that! He runs a Kenwood TS-450 and the Ameritron AL- 811, about 600 watts. My father mostly ragchews with his buddies on 75m so it was quite a change to watch me rake them in during the contest!

My CW isn't the greatest but listening a few times to the contest calls would usually allow me to figure out the fast boys. I would amaze him by

speeding up the memory keyer to 45+ to feed it back to them as fast as they send it. The odd thing is, they usually did just fine! I also showed him how the people sending 10-15 wpm never got called because they were too slow. Many of the pileups I broke were because I was *faster* than the pack.

Then it was back home to the ARRL 160 contest. Not able to spend a large amount of time but did come up with a few new states. The big one was ON4UN. He had a marvelous signal in the DX window and I was surprised by how the crowd stood by and allowed me to work him. It took a few tries to get the call right but there it was. If you work ANY EU on 160, it has to be the man! After all, he wrote the book!

-CU in the pileups...

Rick, N4XMX

NEW 1996 ARRL AWARDS COSTS

From 1 January 1996, the ARRL will apply the following costs for awards and endorsements: for VUCC and DXCC 10\$ for the first certificate and 5\$ for the endorsements (Pin included); copies are 5\$ and pins 5\$.

First DXCC application for ARRL member will be free for the first 12 QSL (before there was no limits), for endorsements 10\$ every year for the first 100 QSLs.

First DXCC application for non-ARRL members will be 10\$ for the first 120 QSLs, for endorsements 20\$ every year for the first 100 QSLs.

For all, every QSL added over the above limits will cost 10 cents more. For the QSL check during Conventions or in ARRL offices 2\$, with a limit of 120 QSLs for each application. At these cost it is necessary to add the amount for the QSLs returned.

For WAS new costs are: Award 5\$; Endorsements 2\$; 5BWAS 10\$ (Pin included); 5BWAS Plaque 25\$; (add amounts for QSL returned for all the awards and endorsements); Pin 5BWAS 5\$.

CQ 160 IS COMING UP GET READY!!!

AD4NQ Paul Wolfe SK

As you are all probably now aware, Paul Wolfe, AD4NQ, became a silent key on November 5, 1995 as a result of a tragic accident while working on his tower. He left behind a wife and four children. It was discussed and agreed upon during the November club meeting that the SEDX Club would make a concerted effort to take up a collection on behalf of the club members. The proceeds of this collection would be donated to the Paul David Wolfe Children Educational Fund in the name of the SEDX Club and its membership.

As club members, through our modest dues structure we are asked to support various causes: DXpeditions, hamfests, packet clusters, etc. This is a case, however, where the club can support a sincerely worthy cause and through the goodwill of amateur radio help alleviate some of the hardships the Wolfe family will have to face. As those of us with families know, one of our greatest concerns each day is what would become of our loved ones if we were not around to care for them. If we would all consider making some type of donation (and no size is too small), with approximately 200 club members we could make a considerable contribution to the AD4NQ fund.

With the holiday season upon us, let us try to feel the spirit for our friend Paul and his family, and make some contribution to this cause. With our numbers, the club can make a genuine impact in a worthwhile endeavor.

Please send all contributions payable to the SEDXC on behalf of the Paul David Wolfe Children Educational Fund to:

The Southeastern DX Club
PO Box 19871
Atlanta, GA 30325

The club will then present a composite check to the fund on behalf of the membership.