



# SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

*THE  
SOUTH'S  
PREMIER  
DX CLUB*

December 1993

## **NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION NOTE NEW DATE!!!!!!**

**Tuesday Dec. 14th, 7:30 PM, Old Hickory House  
in the Days Inn, Roswell Rd., just inside I-285.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**-John Smith, KI4XO, President**

Hello again. We had great meeting this past month with a real time glimpse of how the big contesting stations execute their tricks of maximizing their scores. Thanks to Neal and Steve for their insights and presentation. It definitely held our attention and I personally picked up several tips. The programs have been excellent and there are more exciting ones to follow. A future presentation by some of the area's experts in VHF, UHF and microwave contesting will occur shortly. I would like to see us go out and grab bunches of Technicians and bring them in to expose them to this challenging mode of contesting. We can increase membership and increase the ranks of future HF and VHF/UHF operators. I personally have visited one of our members stations and was significantly impressed with all the awards and special equipment dedicated to these bands. Look at the cover of the current CQ Magazine for glimpse of what I am talking about. Look for this program soon.

Well on the home front I finally got tired of the 40 meter long path reports on the cluster and refuse to place my house on wheels to rotate the 40 meter dipole. With the demise of the HF bands, (has anyone else noticed their dead receivers at night on the upper bands?), I have resolved to improve the lower frequency antennas here at my station. Right now the 40 meter beam is dangling about 12 feet off the ground ready to go up in the morning. By the time you read this, we hope to have 40 meters covered. 40 meter antennas are larger than I thought, I had to cut some trees back just to assemble the thing. After my exposure to the slopers at NQ4I's QTH this past month, we have elected to use a combination of 3 80 meter slopers with a relay box to achieve some gain and front to back ratio. On 160 meters we have elected to install an off feed center

dipole. We plan to use parallel 1:1 baluns to feed the antenna with additional home built in-line 1:1 coax baluns to keep the RF where it belongs. We finally have retired the 550 foot receiving loop in favor of the experimental 1/4 beverage coax feed at the direction you wish to receive. The jury is still out on this design and we will keep you informed.

I would like to encourage others in the club to write up a description of your antenna systems and what works for you best. Sometimes my modest station or your station may inspire someone out there with ideas to significantly improve their current setup. I encourage these papers and would like to see a members column that might run a station a month to share technical expertise and techniques to help others. Many of us are space limited by our real estate and can use all the help we can get.

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. From our family Sharon, Greg and Leslie, we wish all SEDX Club members a happy holiday season and Merry Christmas. We hope to see a large turnout at the December 14, meeting this month.

Thanks, 73 and good DX to all and to all a good night, de John

## **FROM THE VP**

**-Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV, VP**

Well, hello fellow club members and interested friends. Thanks to Neal, AE6E, and Steve, K4JPD, another good SEDXC program was enjoyed by all. They gave us lots of tips on good DX'ing and how to get those difficult countries we all need. (Well, some of us still need more than others.) I'm not sure I will ever catch up with most of you. Of course, turning the rig on is a good start, isn't it? Thanks to all the other folks whose input was enlightening. What a great group of "experienced and competitive" DX'ers we have. We missed you if you weren't there and you missed a good meeting.

Hope all of you had a good Turkey day. It may take us days to recover from all the eating! We do have so much to be thankful for. Too often we forget what is really important.

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(continued from p 1) Please remember that the December club meeting will be December 14th, NOT December 21st. This was decided at the last meeting because the 21st is so close to Christmas. So, bring a friend and join us for dinner and a good, short program. If we don't see or talk to you before Christmas, Mac and I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and above all, a safe a happy time with those you love.

CUL Delaine, KM4FV

## SEDXC MEETING HELD 11/16/93

**-Buddy Harrell, W4OUN, Sec.**

The meeting was called to order by President John Smith at approximately 7:30 PM. Several visitors were introduced including N4HSM, WA4UNP, W6TZ, NK4U, and Meade Duckworth. Welcome all!!!!

KI4XO recognized WX4G and KB0G for having the highest scores for single operator CW and Phone from SEDXC for the 1993 ARRL DX contest.

Matching funds of \$140 had been committed to the Nepal operation. It was announced that the DXpedition has been delayed until early December. (Good luck everyone who needs!!)

Randy, K4ODL, brought several copies of "The Low Band Monitor" newsletter for distribution. It contained construction details for a 160 meter Delta loop. Contact Randy if you are interested in a subscription.

Rick, N4XMX, had an interesting article concerning Digital Signal Processors in the most recent DX Magazine. Good job Rick.

Delaine indicated that the SEDXC pins are not in yet however they should definitely be in before the next meeting. Also, colors were selected for T-shirts and golf shirts. Contact Delaine if you are interested.

The club voted to move the meeting time up a week earlier (December 14) next month since it falls so close to Christmas.

After the business meeting, Steve, K4JPD and Neal, AE6E presented the program. We were treated to a video from K4JPD's station and antenna farm and a discussion of contest operating. The performance of Steve's station is an inspiration to us all. It's amazing what you can accomplish with a modest tribander and SB-220.

73's and DX, Buddy/W4OUN

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**-de John Tramontanis, N4TOL**

BALANCE (CKBK)	\$2,299.86
CLUSTER	\$67.00
ET/9E	\$10.00

73 de N4TOL, John

## NEW CALL SIGNS READIED FOR USE IN FORMER SOVIET UNION

(reprinted from QST 12/93)

WAS	IS/WILL BE
UA, etc (Russia)	RA-RZ, UA-UI
UB	UR-UZ, EM-EO
UC	EU-EW
UD	4J, 4K
UF	4L
UG	EK
UH	EZ
UI	UJ-UM
UJ	EY
UL	UN-UQ
UM	EX
OU	ER

IS/WILL BE	WAS
EK	UG
EM-EO	UB
ER	UO
EU-EW	UC
EX	UM
EY	UJ
EZ	UH
RA-RZ	UA, etc. (Russia)
UA-UI	UA, etc. (Russia)
UJ-UM	UI
UN-UQ	UL
UR-UZ	UB
4J,4K	UD
4L	UF

**P49T** Mike, K4PI wants to thank everyone who gave them a contact during CQWW. GD DX!

### FROM LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY...

From somebody in Chattanooga 20 years ago, Delaine reports the following saying: " We understand that everyone cannot be an amateur radio operator, but those who can and don't, we just don't understand."

## EDITORIAL

Jim Wilson, W4MWT

I do not work dx on lists or nets. I would not feel a sense of accomplishment in doing so - it is a matter of personal preference. I would prefer that dx nets did not exist - but I also respect the right of others to pursue this hobby the way they choose.

I think dx nets could have a more positive influence on amateurs if they could transform themselves into an example of good operating practice and technique. It seems to me that many net participants are relatively new to the art. They seem to be learning about how to work dx - and they mimic what they hear on the nets - tired, worn out phrases such as 'Please copy', 'When last heard', '2 by 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, over, over', 'back to net'. The kind of stuff that makes the experienced DX'ers ridicule and despise about what they refer to as 'list lizards' and 'net nerds'.

Which really brings us to the whole point of this letter - to suggest changes to net practices which might improve the image of dx nets among the dx fraternity.

My suggestions for 'New and Improved' DX nets:

(1) REQUIRE that all stations always identify with their full callsign - ALWAYS! This is a legal requirement as specified in 97.119 of the FCC regulations. The use of 'last two letters' or other forms of shortened identification are not only illegal but they are a patently poor operating practice. This has been pointed out numerous times in QST, CQ and DX Magazine during 1993 alone. OO's have sent out hundreds of notices about the '2 letter' ID's and I think we will soon be reading about FCC notices for improper identification.

(2) The stations involved in a DX contact on the net should be solely responsible for determining the validity of the contact. No 'spoon feeding' or assistance by the net control operator or others on the frequency. No 'Good Contact' pronouncement by the net control station. This is not a 'novel' approach. It is just like all other contacts on the band. If a station feels he had a contact with the dx station that's all that matters. If his QSL card is returned by a dx station with a 'Not In The Log' notice, then he will start to learn the difference between valid and invalid contacts. Simply tell a station when it's his turn to call, he makes his call, if the dx station responds he completes his exchange, signs his call and returns control to the net. SIMPLE! If he fails to make contact, he signs his call and returns control to the net (or tries a different station if the net allows 2 tries for 1 contact, which seems reasonable). The DX Net has provided the dx stations, they are sitting there waiting for a call on a relatively clear frequency and the station has been given an opportunity to call without any competition. Enough is ENOUGH! No further assistance should be required and there should be absolutely no intervention of ANY kind by the net control or others during the contact procedure.

(3) No net control station or participant should EVER go OFF frequency to ask an interfering station to move. Any frequency clearing announcements should be made ONLY on the net frequency. A certain amount of adjacent interference is a way of life on these crowded bands and expecting an absolutely clear frequency is not realistic. In extreme cases, the net might need to alter frequency slightly in order to continue.

(4) No comments or discussion should ever be made concerning what seems to be intentional interference. Any interference which is truly intentional will only be made worse if any net control station or other participant comments on it. You will usually find that IGNORING interference is the best way to minimize it. If 'jammers' get no reaction to their interference, they move on until they find a net which will recognize their efforts!

(5) The net should not attempt to occupy a frequency until it is clear. If the usual net frequency is in use at start time the net control should either wait until the frequency is clear or start the net on the nearest clear frequency. Under no circumstances should anyone ask the current users of a frequency to relinquish it to the net - that would be considered extremely rude in any civilized culture! They should also not attempt to clear the frequency by starting the net in such close proximity to the occupied frequency as to cause interference. Don't be reluctant to shift frequency - you would be amazed at how few crystal-controlled rigs are still in everyday use!

(6) Lists should be taken ONLY on the net frequency. Taking lists on other frequencies expands the spectrum used by the net unnecessarily and risks interfering with ongoing QSO's on or near the chosen alternate list frequency.

(7) No station should ever contact a dx station running a pileup and ask the dx to abandon the pileup to join the net or volunteer to 'take a list' for the dx station. This type of action creates extreme ill will from DX'ers who do not like to work dx on lists. Why create a whole new set of enemies for the dx net?

(8) Net control stations and other net participants should remember that this is a hobby - it is supposed to be fun. DX not worked today may well be worked tomorrow. Keep it light. Maintain a sense of humor when things aren't going well. Net control stations will only encourage rudeness by others if they exhibit rude or irritable behavior during the operation!

73 and Good DX'ing,

Jim, W4MWT

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