



SOUTHEASTERN DX CLUB W4NT

*THE
SOUTH'S
PREMIER
DX CLUB*

December 1994

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION

NO DECEMBER MEETING!!!
Next meeting in January!!! Happy Holidays!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV, President

Remember that the club voted not to have a December meeting. I will miss everyone, please have a safe and happy holidays! The motto of HAM RADIO '95 is "Not just another hamfest." Let's support it. See you in January!

CUL, 73 Delaine - KM4FV

VEEP BEEPS

by Dick Bentley, K2UFT, VP

Delaine gave me the month off as searcher for programs so I get to talk about my latest adventure on Grand Cayman. The part that pleased the XYL was the spacious apartment (2 King sized bedrooms and a third convertible sitting/bedroom plus living room, kitchen and dining room) at Colonial Club, Seven Mile Beach - 300 feet of sand, gentle waves, five days of sun, and never more than 15 people on the beach at any time, most of them keeping to themselves. The club is managed by John Darby (ZF1DJ) and his wife Suzette. We both enjoyed 6 mile daily round trips walking in the surf and on the sand, watching stingrays "fly" by and packs of Jacks chasing what we would call minnows, collecting sea shells, all that neat stuff you do at the beach.

For the OM, of course, was the opportunity to play radio and generate a pile up or two. Thanks to Vern, W8BLA, I hooked his Yaesu up to the antenna farm owned and maintained by Andrew Eden, ZF1EJ using the Cayman Amateur Radio Society shack that Andrew built on top of a water cistern. Despite urging from Vern, the

microphone never left the packing case but I gave my new Logikey a real run for its money. I concentrated on early morning or late evening operating times so as to not put a big dent in family time.

I operated about 17 hours over 4 days, logging some 1400+ QSO's, maintaining an overall rate of 84 QSO's per hour with the Yaesu barefoot. The QTH plays like a Stradivarius. During openings to Japan on both 20 and 40 meters, the rates at times were over 125 per hour using 100 watts. During one opening to JA on 20 meters, it became evident after about 60 or so QSO's that I was not controlling the pile up. That's when I realized that the antenna switch was still set on the 80 meter inverted vee from the night before! A quick flip to the PRO77 solved the control problem and yielded another 150 JA QSO's before the band crashed. Just like the sunrises and sunsets on Cayman, the bands seem to open and close like a quickly deployed vaudeville curtain, none of that wimpy fading off into the sunset stuff!

It was a great experience for both the family and the ham! If you'd like to know more about hamming/vacationing opportunities in Cayman, ask W8BLA or myself for details.
-73 Dick, K2UFT

LOOSE ENDS

-Rick, N4XMX

- 1) Club voted to skip the December meeting because of the proximity to Christmas. CU in January!
- 2) Be sure to turn in your CQWW scores, no matter how big! (Yes, I'll turn in my couple of QSOs too! -ed)
- 3) 160m Contest: Frankfort beat us by less than 2 million points last year. Please try to get on and help out! Anyone needing help getting up on 160m talk to our usual lowband experts for help.
- 4) Ron, AB4RU, asks how many people would be interested in a CT or NA computer class given either at HAM RADIO '95 or earlier. It would be sponsored by the Fourlanders VHF/UHF Contest Club. Let Ron know.
- 5) Roster will be printed in January.

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.

(Ed. note: The following was supplied by Dick, K2UFT. Continued from last month.)

From the diary of KT5X/US0Q, June, 1994

by Fred Maas, KT5X

Through interpreters, we learned that we were the first foreigners to visit here, and it was obvious that they considered our coming to be of great importance. Our visit to the Russian Orthodox Church wasn't complete until we had met with the Bishop and arranged to carry his letter of goodwill to churches in America.

In the afternoon we were taken to the University of Zaporoshye. There we met with classes of students training to be elementary school teachers.

Meanwhile, Phil, KB5BSI, visited Vlad, UY5ZZ. Phil installed software for packet and other radio related purposes. He provided Vlad with a TNC and helped him with the connections. Phil spent the evening on 20 meter phone with Vlad and Nick, UY5QQ.

In the late afternoon my wife Debby was taken to meet a group of artists with whom she had dinner, while I was driven to the Technical Institute. We arrived in the parking lot at the base of yet another towering, but featureless, Stalinesque high-rise. My driver, who spoke no English nor was he a ham, sent "FRED" in Morse on the horn! In a moment two heads appeared out a seventh story window and then disappeared. Sergey, UR5QSK, and Henry, UR6QA, arrived breathlessly at the ground floor, greeted me and we squeezed into a tiny locally made car called a Zaporozhyette.

In a moment we were careening through rush hour streets crowded with cars, pedestrians, trams and electric busses. Every few blocks we stopped to pick up another excited ham; Igor, UT7QF, Sergey, UR3QM, and Vlad, UT2QT. Now our tiny car was dragging bottom and leaning precariously in the curves beneath the weight of six people, joyously communicating in four languages; English, Russian, Ukrainian, and Morse!

We crossed the Dneiper River to Hortitsa Island, stronghold and last refuge of the Cossacks. We soon came to our destination, the house of US9QA, Vlad. I stepped out of the car to be greeted by several more operators already there, but I was held spellbound by the antenna farm. Casting shadows over the house and a miraculous vegetable garden, were three towers adorned with quads. On one tower was a six element quad for 10 meters. On the next tower was a six element quad for 15 and 20 meters. The third tower hefted the crowning achievement of this industrious group of testers; a four element 40 meter quad!

Amid a flurry of excited Russian, I was led into a tiny room in an out-building which housed the station. Half of the room was taken up by a single bed, the other half by a table with the station. There was an IC-725 driving a homebrew 200 watt amplifier, the legal limit in Ukraine. There was a homebrew PC with an early version of CT, a homebrew electronic keyer with, as I was to find out, no dot memory, a paddle made from a hacksaw blade,

and a motorized globe with wire pointers to three dimensionally display the beam heading.

First they set me up on the low end of 20 meters with CT to do the keying. An automatic CQ from CT brought a quick response, but I couldn't type in the call of the answering station. The number keys on top of the keyboard did not type numbers, the keyboard itself was in Russian and the letter locations did not correspond to the locations on our keyboards!

Horrified, I reached desperately for the home-made paddle. Now I discovered the lack of dot memory and, if that wasn't enough, RF feedback into the keyer caused random changes in speed as well! More stations continued to call me, while my hosts climbed over and on top me, wrapping wires around toroidal cores to defeat the feedback. I gave up.

Shell shocked, culture shocked, embarrassed, I was led out of the shack in a daze. Outside a table had been set up for dinner. There was goat cheese and freshly made bread, sliced vegetables and borsch. There was vodka, cognac, port wine, and Crimean champagne. Well, my next encounter sending CW from Ukraine might be painless!

Later I returned to the shack, alone at first. I practiced, desperately trying to adjust my timing to insert the 30 wpm dit without dot memory. I never reached a point of satisfaction, but the night was no longer young. My Ukrainian friends filled the room and everyone piled onto the single bed. They took turns manning the computer to log for me, while I painfully forced the hacksaw blade and keyer to do the talking. Vlad's enormous antenna was causing forest fires across northern Europe.

My receiver was overwhelmed and the log began to fill. It became easiest to pick out three and four calls from a single QRZ, then answer them each in turn, filling the log at a rate of two to four per minute. As the European signals were thinning out, American stations could be heard underneath.

Two hours and 250 QSO's later, there was silence in the receiver and I stood up, finished. My partners and builders of this incredible station broke into spontaneous applause, not for me, but for us. We were cheering each other, eyes damp, warm with a sense of brotherhood from the meeting that had been denied us for 70 years.

I stepped outside into a cool, dark night, and inhaled the damp island air. The Ukrainian operators surrounded me, and excitedly we exchanged QSL cards. After a few minutes another of the operators came out of the shack, pressed through the crowd, and handed me a stack of torn and crumpled papers. They were my scratch sheets written during the heat of the pileup. I looked at the papers in my hand not comprehending. My interpreter whispered in my ear, "He says that the computer glitched and a file wasn't saved." "Your log," Sergey said. We all looked at each other for a moment. Then I burst out laughing, and everyone was laughing and hugging and pounding each other on the back. A perfect ending to another a "lifetime in a day" in Ukraine! -KT5X

TREASURER'S REPORT

-de John Tramontanis, N4TOL

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|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance 10/31/94 (Checkbook) | \$2,734.22 |
| Deposits: | |
| Raffle & Shirts | 170.17 |
| Memberships | 130.00 |
| 160 plaques | 80.00 |
| Total Receipts | <u>380.17</u> |
| Subtotal | <u>3,114.39</u> |
| Expenses: | |
| Newsletter (Nov) | 84.94 |
| Raffle prizes | 87.89 |
| South Georgia | 500.00 |
| Bank Charges | 10.44 |
| Total Expenses | <u>683.27</u> |
| Balance Checking 11/30/94 | <u>\$2,431.12</u> |

Of this ending balance, \$770.00 is earmarked for the cluster fund, resulting from voluntary contributions from the club membership at renewal time. Also, \$119.00 has been donated by club members for the South Georgia DXpedition, the amount of which the club will match. Please help contribute to this cause by mail or at the next meeting as a donation of \$500.00 or more will allow for club recognition on the QSL card. As you all know it was very nice to see our logo on the 3YØ card. The club is also holding \$440.00 for 160 meter award plaques.

- 73 de N4TOL John

TAKING ON THE BIG GUNS WITH A PEA SHOOTER

© 1994 - Jay Pryor, K4OGG

I tried to make sure that I was ready for the 1994 CW Sweepstakes. My station is far from being a "big gun;" with my TS-520 and wire antennas, search and pounce is my life. But it's fun and that's what it's all about.

I have a modest station and modest goals. Last year's effort brought 365 QSOs with 65 sections in 18 hours of operation. My goal for this year: 500 Q's and 70

sections. I planned to go for the burn, operating the full 24 hours and taking a day of annual leave on Monday to recuperate.

A key ingredient of this year's preparation was the purchase of a new computer. My daughter went to college this fall, taking her computer and my DXBase and CT software. Two weeks before the contest, I made my purchase, loaded CT and was ready to log the contacts.

Next came the antenna work. Thinking I would do better on 80 meters with an inverted V than with the all-bander I typically use, I put the dipole together and paid a visit to the Wire Man on the morning of the contest for a new piece of 213. Two PL-259s later, I was in business. As it turned out, the new inverted V was no improvement over the all-bander. Oh well.

So now I had the computer ready, the antennas ready, the space heater standing by to make the cold basement more comfortable, the keyer programmed, and the left-over Halloween candy conveniently relocated next to the rig. Bring on the big guns!

It's interesting to observe the positioning before the Sweepstakes. Thirty minutes before the contest, the big guns were parked on "their" frequencies, running stations for signal reports, making sure everything was set up correctly, and fine tuning their operating skills. A couple of minutes before the start, you hear the long CQs, followed by the station call, followed by more CQs. Then, when the clock's second hand hits the appointed hour, you finally hear "SS" tagged on the end of the CQ and pure, unadulterated pandemonium breaks out everywhere. What a wonderful hobby!

At 9 a.m. Sunday, I was pleased with my progress. I had already matched my section total from last year, and my QSO total was in the 260's. It looked like I would make my goal. I had just worked a K5 station when, for me, the Sweepstakes ended. My new computer started making a strange clicking sound. I shut it down. I turned it back on. The clicking sound continued, and it wouldn't let me back into CT. I was not a happy camper.

I had to wait until the computer store opened at 11 a.m. to talk with a technician. After running a diagnostic program I learned I had "physical damage to the hard drive." By afternoon I had a full refund for the new computer and was thinking seriously about what I can do to put out a better signal on 80.

My first Sweepstakes was in '59 and '94 was not my last. Watch out, big guns. I'm making plans for '95!

- Jay Pryor, K4OGG

GA 30092
NORCROSS
DAVE THOMPSON
4166 MILL STONE CT
K4JRB 6/30/95

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DX PACKET FREQ. (2400 baud)

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|-------|------------------------|
| W8ZF | 145.63 |
| K4KG | 144.91 |
| N4UCK | 145.65, 144.97 (ARCDX) |
| KK4JF | 145.71 (also 1200) |

DX COMMUNICATION FREQ.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Simplex | 147.54 |
| Melvin | 147.51 |
| K4JPD Repeater (tone 7) | 147.795/T-195/R |
| W8BLA/R | 442.075+ |

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