



### **SFDXA January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting report.**

President Don Drennon, N4TZH, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

We pledged allegiance to the Flag. We introduced ourselves; **29** of us were in attendance.

#### **Announcements**

- Checking account balance is \$4,641.08 as of 30 Nov 2015.
- Membership runs through December, so 2016 DUES ARE DUE! Bring payment or check to Ray, N4RU.
- Bill Marx, W2CQ, on behalf of Lou, W9IL, presented the Hog of the Year Award to Hope, WB3ANE.

#### **Presentation**

John Stucka, N3JM, presents – Lightning! Florida is the national lightning headquarter state. Lightning – the what, when, how, and where, and lightning effects on humans.

I post meeting minutes and meeting presentations (when available) on the club web page. Follow the links from [www.sfdxa.com](http://www.sfdxa.com). Comment about the minutes to me, the club Secretary, Kai, KE4PT at [k.siwiaak@ieee.org](mailto:k.siwiaak@ieee.org). **Next SFDXA meeting, Wednesday at 7:33pm at the Florida Medical Center following a dinner at 6:00 PM in the FMC cafeteria.**

The club collects a member donation of \$7.00 for Dinner.

Future SFDXA meetings:

**March 2, 2016**

May 4, 2016

July 6, 2016

73,

Kai, KE4PT, SFDXA Secretary



**SFDXA March 2, 2016 meeting report.**

Bill Marx, W2CQ, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM [in Don's absence].

We pledged allegiance to the Flag. We introduced ourselves; **22** of us were in attendance.

**Announcements**

- Checking account balance is \$5105.
- Membership runs through December, so 2016 DUES ARE DUE! Bring payment or check to Ray, N4RU.
- John Stucka, N3JM, was voted Full Member.
- Webinar by Carlos, N4IS, March 3, 9:00 PM Eastern Time.

**Presentation**

Norm Alexander, W4QN, presents – DX Aides: Past and Present.

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Future SFDXA meetings:

**May 4, 2016**

July 6, 2016

73,

Kai, KE4PT, SFDXA Secretary



### **SFDXA May 4, 2016 meeting report.**

President Don, N4THZ, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

We pledged allegiance to the Flag. We introduced ourselves; **24** of us were in attendance.

### **Announcements**

- SFDXA checking balance is \$3,671.56 as of 3/31/16.
- Kai Introduced guest Adam Prey, KM4QYH, who had his "first RF" and first DX experience on 17 m with F5RAG, from K4FK, control op Kai, KE4PT.
- Barry Porter, KB4PA, presented the Feb 2016 *QST* Cover Plaque Award to Kai, KE4PT.

### **Presentation**

Norm, W4AN, slide presentation took us through a look at the operators, the challenge of weather, and the results of *The Intrepid DX*, *VP8STI South Sandwich*, and *VP8SGI South Georgia Expeditions*. Those locations appear as numbers 3 and 8 on the most wanted list.

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Future SFDXA meetings:

**Jul 6, 2016**

Sept 7, 2016

Nov 2, 2016

Jan 4, 2017

73,

Kai, KE4PT, SFDXA Secretary



# Amateur Radio

## DX MARATHON

July 2016

Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB  
Castle Peak, 1262 Taihape Road  
RD9 Hastings  
4179  
New Zealand

Dear Gary,

Congratulations on your OCEANIA first place finish in the 2015 edition of CQ Magazine's DX Marathon annual DX contest! I am pleased to present to you the enclosed plaque, courtesy of the South Florida DX Association. Please email us a photograph of yourself holding the plaque in your ham shack. Email to: [john@dxmarathon.com](mailto:john@dxmarathon.com).

Plaques are only possible due to our sponsors – please send an email to [n4ru@bellsouth.net](mailto:n4ru@bellsouth.net) and thank The South Florida DX Association for the plaque.

We thank you for your participation and on behalf of the DX Marathon staff and the South Florida DX Association, we congratulate you!

Good luck in the coming years!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

John Sweeney, K9EL  
DX Marathon Manager

### PLAQUE SPONSOR:



**CQ Amateur Radio**

**CQ DX Marathon  
2015**

**WINNER  
OCEANIA**

**GARY HINSON  
ZL2IFB**

**Winning Score: 317**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**PLAQUE SPONSOR:  
SOUTH FLORIDA DX ASSOCIATION**

Hey Ray and all the members of the SFDXA,

Thank you all so much for sponsoring the 2015 CQ DX Marathon plaque for Oceania. It's a nice way to celebrate a successful year's DXing. The plaque is very smart, really classy, and I'm proud to display it in my shack – in my eye-line on the wall behind the radios in fact, inspiring me to have another go in the 2016 event.

I have some help this year ...



I'm standing beside a rack of antenna bits, holding "Bramble", a lamb born just a few days ago at the weekend. She slipped through the fence and promptly got caught in the brambles. The ewe wandered off with her other lamb, unfazed, but luckily Deborah (my better half) heard her calls and rescued her, so now we are bottle feeding her. It's a good thing I work from home! Perhaps I can train her to bleat at me when a new one appears on the cluster.

DXing is fascinating from the South Pacific. I guess up there in Florida you have a few thousand active hams within ground wave and first skip range. Down here in New Zealand there are only about 50 of us truly active on HF, plus a few hundred more in Australia, Indonesia and Hawaii, but with a few notable exceptions hardly any others across the huge expanse of the Pacific Ocean. From space, the world looks very blue and wet in our hemisphere ...



We live on a hilltop clearing in a forest block about 15 miles inland from the East coast of North Island NZ port of Napier. We can see the sea from up here, which is a clue about the excellent takeoff. With no neighbours for a mile or more, I have only myself to blame for the few odd computer

sproggies I hear. It's a joy to be able to hear *very* weak DX, and a good thing too given just how far away most of it is!

If any of your members want to contact New Zealand or have a chat, I'd be happy to set up skeds. My passion is CW, mostly on 20 or the lower bands these days but I have a mike and can run RTTY, PSK or even JT65 without much hassle. Please email me: [Gary@g4ifb.com](mailto:Gary@g4ifb.com) (yes, we emigrated from the UK in 2005).

My station is an Elecraft K3 plus amplifier, normally running about 500w to 1 kW out to long runs of coax feeding fullwave wire loops on 80 and 40m (hanging between fir trees), a wire vertical on 30m (supported on a fishing pole over the corrugated iron roof of my garage/workshop), a 2 element Yagi for 20+15+10m, a 3 element monobander for 17m (on loan from a friend in town) and a lash-up rotatable wire loop for 12m. I'm currently building a 2 element HF quad, VERY slowly. With any luck it will be in the air before the sunspots return but I wouldn't bet on it.

OK, that's it from me. Thanks again guys for the plaque, much appreciated. If you ever find yourselves down in my part of the world, please get in touch and call in. Feed the lamb or work the DX, it's your choice. On second thoughts, you can do both!

73 CUL

Gary ZL2iFB [www.G4iFB.com](http://www.G4iFB.com)

PS John K9EL who runs the Marathon is a star too – very friendly, very keen to help, a credit to the hobby.





**SFDXA July 6, 2016 meeting report.**

Pete, N8PR, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

We pledged allegiance to the Flag. We introduced ourselves; **25** of us were in attendance.

**Announcements**

- SFDXA Treasurer, Ray, N4RU, reports that a checking balance \$3,637.16 as of 5/31/16.
- Peter Rimmel, N8PR, was appointed Technical Specialist in the ARRL and Field Organization, Jeff Beale, WA4AW presented his certificate.
- Jeff Beale, WA4AW, presented Pete, N8PR, with a 3rd Place Trophy in the ARRL Chase for his 2452 QSOs.
- Field Day report: nearly all attendees participated in some Filed Day site this year.

**Presentation**

John Stucka, N3JM, presented - Lightning: The Challenge - Protect your Radio Equipment.

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Future SFDXA meetings:

**Sept 7, 2016**

Nov 2, 2016

Jan 4, 2017

73,

Kai, KE4PT,

SFDXA Secretary



### **SFDXA September 7, 2016 meeting report.**

Don, N4TZH, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

We pledged allegiance to the Flag. We introduced ourselves; **15** of us were in attendance.

### **Announcements**

- SFDXA Treasurer, Ray, N4RU, reports that a checking balance \$3,548.06 as of 7/29/16.
- Peter Rimmel, N8PR, reported QCWA meeting this Saturday Sept 10, at Falcon Pub.
- Orlando Maker Fair – Sept 22-23, see Don, N4TZH for details.

### **Presentation**

Don Drennon, N4TZH, presented his experiences with "3 – D Printing and Amateur Radio".

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Future SFDXA meetings:

**Nov 2, 2016**

Jan 4, 2017

73,

Kai, KE4PT,

SFDXA Secretary



### **SFDXA November 2, 2016 meeting report.**

Bill Marx, W2CQ, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

We pledged allegiance to the Flag. We introduced ourselves; **20** of us were in attendance.

### **Announcements**

- SFDXA Treasurer, Ray, N4RU, reports that a checking balance \$3,540.06 as of 9/30/16.
- Secretary's web report: all meeting records and all presentation are available at [www.sfdxa.com](http://www.sfdxa.com).
- The Miami-Dade / SF / Broward / Ft Lauderdale Hamboree is coming up – details to follow.
- Members reported their contest results from last weekend.
- Ed, N4II, has published his Cocos Keeling propagation article in the Nov/Dec 2016 issue of *QEX*. He previously presented this info at the 9 March 2015 SFDXA meeting.
- Bill, W2CQ, asked for great participation and volunteers for Club officer positions. He also asked us to think about what the club should do – email Bill at [w2cq@qsl.net](mailto:w2cq@qsl.net).
- Free Flea is on Nov 19 – see Bill, W2CQ, for details.

### **Presentation**

Kai Siwiak, KE4PT, presented "To Balun or not to Balun", based on Rich Quick, W4RQ, and Kai Siwiak, KE4PT, "Does Your Antenna Need a Choke or Balun?" to appear in *QST* Mar 2017. A robust discussion followed the presentation

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Future SFDXA meeting:

**Jan 4, 2017**

73,  
Kai, KE4PT,  
SFDXA Secretary



**SFDXA November 17, 2016 Board of Directors meeting report.**

**Venue:** Dunkin Donuts, 9170 W. State Road 84.

**Attending:** Bill Marx, W2CQ, Pete Rimmel, N8PR, Ray Smolenski, N4RU, Kai Siwiak, KE4PT.

**Bill called the meeting to order at 18:17 EST.**

**Nominations from the Board for SFDXA Officers:**

President	Pete Rimmel, N8PR	Director	Ed Callaway, N4II
Vice President	Bill Marx, W2CQ	Director	Lou Hodges, W9IL
Secretary	Kai Siwiak, KE4PT	Director	Al Maslin, N3EA
Treasurer	Ray Smolenski, N4RU	Director	Don Drennon, N4TZH

All nominees have agreed to stand for office. 2016 President Don, N4TZH, agreed to act as a 2017 Director.

**Discussions**

- K4FK license renewal due Feb 2017 – Trustee Pete to handle.
- \$150 Donation received by SFDXA from Laura Leibowitz; Kai to draft a thank you letter.
- SFDXA donations PREVIOUSLY APPROVED and ALREADY MADE in 2016 to other amateur radio organizations: \$59.40 paid to KA9FOX at QSL.net.
- Upcoming SFDXA expenditures APPROVED at November 2016 BOD meeting:
  - \$191.80 for 2017 K4FK equipment insurance expense (no change in existing equipment manifest);
  - \$50 donation to 2016 NCDXF fund + \$50 donation to 2017 NCDXF fund.
- Proposed SFDXA expenditures by N4RU still PENDING APPROVAL by the BOD:
  - 2016 ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund \$50 donation (matching SFDXA 2015 donation to same fund);
  - 2016 Clublog donation of \$100 (matching SFDXA 2014 donation to the same fund);
  - 2017 Annual State of Florida corporation registration fee of \$61.25.
- Available SFDXA door prizes for use at 2017 Tropical Hamboree or elsewhere (courtesy of Harvey, KC4CX):
  - Plantronics Backbeat GO Wireless Stereo (earbuds w/mic, ac charger) – \$50 value - new condition;
  - Plantronics Voyager Legend UC In-ear Bluetooth headset – \$150 value - new condition.
- Officers' liability insurance discussed and dismissed.
- Membership % ARRL members: near 100%, condition of SFDXA full membership.
- **SFDXA.com, SFDXA.club** will be transferred from Bill, W2CQ, to the Club. Ray to handle costs. **SouthFloridaDX.com** and **FloridaDX.com** to be discussed at next BoD meeting.
- Skype for SF DXers discussed. Interest is low, there are about 5 current users.
- SFDXA meeting dates to be arranged with FMC staff by Bill.
- Tropical Hamboree: SFDXA is on the hook for a DX Forum, Pete to handle. Will be looking for a free table, perhaps hosting QCWA Chapter #69, and Don, W3AZD, as card checker.
- Noted: Mark Horowitz, K2AU, handling a new SFDXA membership application.
- Bill to check with Edco about procuring an 18 inch square SFDXA podium banner.
- Status of Al Flappin's "Official Observer" presentation discussed. Kai to contact ARRL and look into the status of the OO program.

**Adjourned 19:14 EST.**

Next regular SFDXA meeting:

**Jan 4, 2017**

73,

Kai Siwiak, KE4PT,  
SFDXA Secretary