



Southeastern DX Club W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB
January 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR

President's Report:

Spaceweather is getting pretty warm:

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Solar-Terrestrial Data
2010 Jan 12 1511 UTC
Solar Flux: 89
A-Index: 8
K-Index: 1 / 07 nT
X-Ray: B1.7
SSN: 35
Ptn Flx: 2.81e-01
Elc Flx: 1.33e-01
Aurora: 2 /n=0.99
Data provided by NONBH
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As Solarcycle24.com comments, "The solar flux reached a daily max of 90.8 on Monday and ended with an average of 89 which is a new record for Cycle 24." I seem to remember numbers in the 90s from a long, long time ago, or am I imagining them? Things are really looking up.

On the other hand, earth weather has been unpleasant, and this picture reminds me of that. I'm sure you know what I mean, but Norm Schklar snapped this one at GARS, which was a big success despite the inclement weather.



Despite my being marooned with the club equipment for the hamfest 2010 kickoff at GARS, volunteers stepped in to make the best of a bad situation—and they signed up new members while they were at it. Thanks to all who helped out with this. I have made a note to myself—the equipment should not be at my

house when there is a chance of snow or ice before a hamfest. Or, given the big earthen dam about a quarter mile from here—which would flood the only road out and a number of houses—maybe not during heavy rain, either. I also want to thank Wey K8EAB who is heading off to tropical drinks, sun, sand, and another bout of DXpeditioning Light in the islands very soon. Wey was kind enough to offer to send St. Bernard dogs in to me with supplies, drinks—and a pack of wild women.

Mack WB4MAK, has kindly offered to host a ham DXers breakfast in his fantastic ham shack in March. The Executive Committee will be working this event. The idea is to invite hams in the area who have been identified as DXers of the future to see how DXing is done. We expect that this will lead to some new and younger members of the club, and we will be looking for some of you old pros to mentor when some of the recruits need help in learning the ways of veteran DXers.

I have been laboring with getting a new computer with Windows 7/64-bit trained in the ways of ham radio. The operating system seems very stable, but figuring out how to get past some of the problems as well working around the fact that PCI hardware and slots are fast fading into museum pieces has kept me very busy. Have you ever heard of an elevated command prompt? Have you used an operating system where the administrator's account is not active by default? Have you had to go to covert sources to figure out how to turn on the account? If not, you're in for a challenge it you have to take the plunge. I think I am just about over the hurdle now. Since my old shack machine will never boot again, I certainly hope so—there is a lot of DX out there and hand logging is for me a little like trying to use Windows ME.

CU you at the January meeting—yep, it's just about that time.

73

Bob W2WG

Vice President's Report:

With the sunspot count starting to increase (at last) our opportunities for working more exotic DX entities increases. However, it is always enjoyable to

revisit some of the past exotic and desirable DXpeditions.

Our January program will provide an opportunity to make just such a revisit. Navassa (KP1) remains high on the most wanted DX entities list having been visited by the ham radio community since 1948 only about six times. Fortunately, several SEDXC members have been operators on two of the most recent Navassa DXpeditions.

Dave Johnson, K4SSU was party to one of the DXpeditions and will provide us "Another Look At Navassa" with some new photographs many of us have not had the pleasure of seeing. Along with Dave's personal experiences and a photo tour of the Navassa operation, this will provide for an enjoyable and informative program.

In the coming months we have on tap our first insight to a very recent DXpedition made by two of our very own SEDXC members. We'll keep you all posted. In the meantime, Happy New Year and enjoy chasing the DX.

Jim C. KT4MM

Treasurers Report:

At November 30, 2009

Operating Account Beginning Balance: \$6000.58

Receipts in the month :

Sale of IRC's	20.00
Memberships	60.00
<u>Total Cash and Checks</u>	<u>80.00</u>

Disbursements in the month were:

Larry VQ9LA (IRC's)	51.00
Holiday Party	645.00
<u>Award – plaques</u>	<u>163.00</u>
Total disbursed	\$789.00

Undeposited Funds	83.00
<u>Operating account balance</u>	<u>\$5138.58</u>
Total Available	<u>\$5221.58</u>

Techfest was a great success in spite of the cold. Dan W4EA and Al NN4ZZ manned the table and signed up four new members.

73, Mike ND4V

Activities Report:

A big thanks goes out to W4EA (Dan), NN4ZZ (Al), for helping man our table at the GARS and hats off to W3WL (Wes) for giving the updated DX-101 seminar again. Our own WA4ZXV (Norm) was our liaison, most likely running around like a mad man. They

went beyond the call of ham radio, handling hazardous icy road conditions.

A belated thanks goes out to K4JRB (Dave), K4ZJ (Dennis), W2WG (Bob), NN4ZZ (Al), KE4RQ (Clark), N4FN (Neil), K3GKW (Buzz), N3FP (Fred), W4KLY (Paul), W4OWY (Bob), ND4V (Mike), W4GKF (Chaz), and N4NX ('Wild Card Checker' Bill) for gracious manning our table at the 2009 Lawrenceville hamfest without the free chili perk!

And don't forget to enter your name & monthly Qs into Chaz for our monthly DX contest. If I could win with only 56 unique countries, most of which were SSB on low power, it can't be that tough. GL & 73s...

Gary – WB4SQ

There is no Secretary's Report this month:

Technical topics:

Here is an article from Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, monthly column he puts out for Bulletin and News Letter Editors to use in the publications. It raises a very good question—How much should hams know how to do?

What Should Every Ham Know How to Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100.

I don't know if that convinced him, but it got me thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far:

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.

2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.

3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.

4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

After I posted this to my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I got several good responses. Jeff said, "I believe hams should know how to install RF connectors, particularly the three most used in our hobby, the PL-259, the BNC, and the N connector." Blair, WB3AWI, replied, "Another thing that hams should know how to do is to measure the SWR of an antenna."

So, now I ask you, What do you think every ham should know how to do? Feel free to post a comment to my blog or e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

So--- What do you think ????????

While we are on somewhat of a technical note, I would like to report that I have acquired a MFJ-1026 Noise Canceling Signal Enhancer. While it is still under test to see how it performs I can report that on local noise it does a very good job of canceling it out. On the bench I could get cancellation of at least 60db and maybe a little more. But, as they say (However, comma), on noise and signals coming in by sky wave it seems to be another matter. The null is difficult to get adjusted and is unstable due to the varying signal path and strength of the signal arriving at the receive antenna and the noise antenna.

I have some local pulsing noise on 160 and 80 meters that it will take out completely. So that is a good thing. When I get more data and use of this unit I will report it here.

Jim K4DLI

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DX PACKET FREQ. (Corrections, 1/2/04)

N4XMX off line(2400) 144.91 (direct, Vinings),
off line(2400) 145.65 (direct or ATLDX)

Note: ATLDX is down right now, direct OK.

NI4X (9600) 144.93, 145.71, 440.75

K4UGA (Athens)(2400) 145.67 (SE Megaclst)

(telnet 128.192.52.40 599, must put in port 599)

DX COMMUNICATION FREQ.

Simplex 147.54

K4JPD Repeater (tone 85.4 Hz) 147.195 +600

SPECIAL NOTE:

The club is now using the Repeater on 145.410, down 600, for chatting and real time DX announcements.

Join the group there. No tone required.

SEDXC WEBPAGE

www.sedxc.org

SEDXC REFLECTOR sedxc@contesting.com