



Southeastern DX Club

W4NT

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER DX CLUB

November/December 2010

No President or Vice President report this month.

Secretaries Report:

Minutes of October, 2010 SEDXC meeting

Meeting call to order at 7:30 by Pres W2WG Bob

One Line Announcements included:

Bob, W2WG pitched HamJam and described prizes; goal is to help youth with proceeds

Bill, N4NX recommended working PJ6A soon as they are breaking down tomorrow

Program - On K4L Sapelo Island presented by Ricky, K4JTT

15 member team from various local clubs

8 months in preparation

Most of team was rookies

Goal was to have fun and put

Sapelo/Lighthouse/IOTA on the air for first time!

History of Island was told by Ricky

Great feel for Island

house/surroundings/fixtures/wildlife was well received

Antennas complicated by high tension wires and no trees

Tribute in loving memory to Terrell Moore, NN1L, whom helped and encouraged Ricky

Terrell died of brain tumor shortly before Sapalo took place.

Bill, N4NX, helped get DXCC for Terrell via Bill Moore at the League just before he passed (a great story!)

Ricky also announced he is putting together an expedition to Christmas Island in the South FL Keys in 2011.

(Secretary's note - This was a GREAT program and really captured the spirit of camaraderie and fun that can take place on an Expedition - no matter where you go!!)

How's DX

Don, N4HH, described what it was like to operate from Saba "Like everyone was S1 until you went back to a particular station and then he was S9!" Bill, N4NX, when operation from Saba - "I was amazed

when I called CQ on a dead band and all of a sudden there was a pileup!)

Dave, K4SSU, Had the "Best time of all!" "It was a very interesting place and am looking forward to the video. Martti Lane stopped the pile-up and congratulated us for an FB job!"

Dave also told of Bob's K4UEE, band plan and how it was able to turn chaos into order!

Business Meeting

Chaz, W4GKF and his XYL, Gael are hosting the Holiday Party on December 4

John, N4TOL is the new President of NFARL

HamJam was discussed and we were all encouraged to buy raffle tickets

DX Pros placed help with disabled veteran

GA QSO party eyeball cards to be handed out at Lawrenceville Hamfest (done by W4QO) - all are encouraged to participate April 9 and 10!!

Lawrenceville booth to be like Friedrichshafen with 3 other clubs

Dave, K4SSU, is driving the bus for some really big GA political names prior to the election (See Dave for details!!).

Respectfully Submitted,

Wes - W3WL

Activities Report:

A BIG thanks goes out to WF4W (Tad), WU4B (Clark), K4PI (Mike), W4OWY (Bob), K4GK (Charles), KC4AA (Bill), K4DLI (Jim), ND4V (Mike), N4NX (Bill), W4GKF (Chaz), and WB4SQ (Gary) for all the help manning the 'DX side' of the inter-club social tables. As everyone will most likely agree... it was a much better setting than just hanging out in front of a decorated table.

Don't forget about the December 4th SEDXC holiday party at Gael & Chaz's home, which IS our December meeting. Check the website if you haven't received your eVite yet.

Coming up next is the GARS Techfest (and FREE Chili cookoff) - January 8th 2011 at the St Marguerite D'Youville Church in Lawrenceville. Check www.gars.org for details. Our Club should have a large presence there.



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Happy Holidays to all...

Gary – WB4SQ

As you may have noticed this is a combined November/ December Bulletin. Because we had HamJam in place of our November meeting and are having the Christmas Party in place of the December meeting the two bulletins are combined.

NOW

Don't forget--It's Party Time:

You should all have your eVite for the big Christmas Party hosted this year by Gael & Chaz Cone. Check the SEDXC web site for details and map instructions.

HamJam was a huge success. The room was full and everyone seemed to enjoy the talks given by Joe Taylor, K1JT, Ward Silver, NØAX and our own Hal Kennedy, N4GG. Here are a few pictures from the event pulled from the NFARL web site.



The presidents of the SEDXC and the NFARL did a great job of MC'ing the show.



Thanks to all those who showed up for the event and it looks like there are already plans in the works for another event next year.

From time to time we present an article from Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, that he sends to bulletin editors for inclusion in their bulletins and newsletters. This month we have one on CW.

One thing that I find amusing about Morse Code is that the more people claim that it's dead, the more people there are that rise up to defend and promote it. Note that I said "defend and promote it," not actually use it, but that topic is for another column.

Having said that, let me direct you to a new tome on our ancient art, Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy by Carlo Consoli, IKØYGJ. This book is available as a free download in the original Italian (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_ita_v20100826.pdf) and in an English translation (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf) . What makes this book different from others is that instead of concentrating on the mechanics of learning and using Morse Code, the author spends a good deal of time talking about the psychology of learning this skill. To succeed in learning Morse Code, Consoli advises that we need to change our approach to learning:



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"When learning CW, therefore, we must establish a new component in our self-image and, when doing so, we need to be relaxed. Always practice during the same time of day and in a place where you can experience positive feelings of comfort and pleasure. When we make a mistake we are always ready to blame ourselves. This is the way we learnt from our environment during childhood, often accepting any fault as our own error or weakness.

This potentially destructive mechanism can be used to build a positive self-image, rather than demolish it. A mistake must be considered a signal, pointing us in the right direction. If you fail, let your mistake pass away, with no blame or irritation. Learn CW in a relaxed mood, enjoy the pleasure of learning something new, repeat your exercises every day and be confident in the self-programming abilities of your self-image. Just a few minutes a day; you can take care of your 'more serious' stuff later on."

Consoli also has some interesting things to say about getting faster. He agrees with me that it's essential to abandon pencil and paper and start copying in one's head. We also agree that at this point, you need to start using a paddle instead of a straight key.

He has analyzed the situation a lot more than I have, though. When hams ask me how I learned to copy in my head, all I can do is to relate my own experience, which is that one day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to work for a lot of operators. If that doesn't work for you, Consoli says that what you need to do is to program yourself to copy in your head. You do this, he says, by relaxing and visualizing. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and one day, you will be one.

That seems to have worked for him. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm.

Will it work for you? I'm not sure, but if you haven't been successful with other methods to improve your code speed, then Consoli's methods are certainly worth a try.

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Remember, if you have anything you think might be of interest to the club please send it in so we can publish it in the bulletin.

See you all at the Christmas Party Saturday night.

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DX PACKET FREQ. (Corrections, 1/2/04)
NI4X (9600) 144.93, 145.71, 440.75
K4UGA (Athens)(2400) 145.67 (SE Mega1st)
(telnet 128.192.52.40 599, must put in port 599)
DX COMMUNICATION FREQ.
Simplex 147.54

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

SEDXC Chat Room <http://sedxc.dodropin.org/>

SEDXC Yahoo Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sedxc/>