



Long Path



President's Report

Greetings *SEMDXA* Members

First, and certainly foremost, I would like to wish each and every one of you the best for the holidays. Hope you get that Icom 7800 you have been dreaming of.

I hear the November meeting went well and I think I missed a good one. Thanks Ken for helping out and wish I could have been there to see and hear your presentation. Especially the shack in the top of the water tower. Hmmm. Maybe that is what we need to work the VU4.

I hear **W1SKU** worked the VU4 on the first day and my guess is around 21:00Z as that is when I was at my wife's salon repairing a broken faucet on one of the shampoo stations. I also heard from a friend in Flint, **K8DYZ**, that he heard it but didn't get through. Unfortunately that is probably the only prop we have had here in the Midwest so the ole Prez is still wasting his time listening to dead air. Why they don't go to 15M where we have prop is beyond me. OK now I can jump down off my soapbox.

Next month's meeting on January 14th, will be a dandy as **K3LP**, Dave,

will be putting on a presentation on **T33C** which many of us worked. It should prove to be a very interesting meeting so I hope to see all of you there. I would like to thank Sean, **K8KHZ**, and John, **K8UP**, for helping put this one together.

As of this writing I/We have no program planned yet for February so if you have any ideas please email myself or one of the officers and we will follow it up. **K6MYC** will be coming to one of our meetings in the spring but that is yet to be worked out.

Good luck DXing and drive safe over the holidays.

K8SIX

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## November Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Vice-President Ken, **W8LU**. Twenty-seven members and guests present. **W8LU** tells us that *SEMDXA* was formed in 1982 which makes our organization twenty-two years old! Ken also reminds that this is the last meeting of the 2004 year. Since there is no meeting in December the *Long Path* will be shortened to only a calendar. The next meeting will be in January. No treasurer's report, but **AC8W**, says dues are due. You can mail them to the Treasurer, **N8CQA**. Secretary's report was printed in the *Long Path*. **N8ZX**, related his experience using cast iron pipe for coax runs to his towers. The offer some protection against lightning

essentially the same principle used for protecting missile silo against EMP.

**K8NA**, tells us of an informal DXer gathering hosted by **NE8Z**, called the Zukey Lake Tavern DX Luncheon... next one will be on December 17th. Several *SEMDXA* operations are planned for the 2004 CQWW CW test. **W8LU**, is returning to CT3 to help the **CT9L** group. **K8DD** and **AC8W** will be driving to Western Labrador to operate as **VO2AAA** in CQ Zone 2. **K8CC** will host a multi-two and

## SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

*President:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*Vice-president:* Ken Schang, **W8LU**

*Treasurer:* Buck Switzer, **N8CQA**

*Secretary:* Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

*Director:* Ted Pauck, **K8NA**

*Web Site Editor:* Ken Schang, **W8LU**

*DXCC Checker:* Bill Jones, **N8KF**

*DXCC Checker:* S.Arnett, **AC8W**

*VUCC Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*CQ Checker:* Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

*CQ Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*Program Chairman:* Vacant

*LP Publisher:* Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

**K8JM**, will do a multi-single. Tonight's program featured Ken, **W8LU**, and his trip to Friedrichshafen, Europe's largest and best known Hamfest. Located in Southwest Germany in Bavaria this gathering usually attracts over 20K attendees from all over the world.

A highlight is the booths where national organizations set up and become a gathering spot for their country's Hams and guests. Ken had photos of many well known DL DXers as well as many other famous faces to go with calls. Ken also visited **IK2QWI** in Milano who arranged a visit to a familiar contest station, **IR4T**. The station is located at the top of a 200+ foot water tower and operating conditions are "spartan" to say the least. (Not shown were pictures of the amplifiers!) Informational and fun program.

**K8NA** showed a few pictures of a 1981 CQWW contest operation from Lansing at the shack of **N8JW**. He also had pictures of his tower disaster. The 110' tower with antennas at 123' bent about half way down in the recent 65 mph winds that hit suburban Detroit. Sad. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. to general fellowship.

**AC8W**, Secretary

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SEMDXA EXPEDITION TO VISALIA 2005?

The recent presentation by Ken, **W8LU** about the Fredrichshafen hamfest in Germany got me thinking about organizing a **SEMDXA** expedition to the Visalia DX Convention in April 2005. A few of us DXers have been to Visalia, including two trips myself and I've had a wonderful time. I think it would be great fun to organize a group trip to the next one.

Visalia is located in central California. This was the reason for selecting it as the location for the convention - it's mid way between the two major population areas: San Francisco to the North and Los Angeles to the South. This puts it right in the middle of the California wine-growing flatlands so it's a beautiful place to visit as well.

You get to Visalia generally by flying to some California city then driving the rest of the way. I've flown to Los Angeles to the South and driven North to Visalia, and also flown to San Francisco to the North and driven south. I've heard of others who have flown to Fresno which is closer than the other two, but I think the choice of air flights is a lot smaller.

Visalia is a big enough town to have many of the hotel chains, restaurants, etc., but there is some crowding and shortage of facilities during the convention. It's nothing like Dayton during convention week, though. But it does mean we need to plan ahead to get rooms.

The convention itself is also a lot smaller than Dayton. However, it is almost exclusively DXers and contesters, meaning you're not likely to encounter attendees wearing pith helmets with lighted, scale models of their towers on their heads. The flea market is very small, and the number of few product dealers fits into one large hotel conference room. However, again these tend to be the dealers who we (as DXers/contesters) are most interested in.

I haven't been able to find the official dates on the web, but it appears the convention is the last full weekend in April. I will do some more research and have more info at the January meeting. I'm willing to lead the charge and try to get a block of rooms for **SEMDXA**, but while April seems like a long ways away we need to get our plans in place now.

If you're interested, drop me an e-mail at **k8cc@comcast.net** or be prepared to talk about it at the January meeting.

K8CC

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### DX Contester W8NGO

*Many of our older **SEMDXA** members will no doubt recall DX Contester Dr. Ed MacKenzie, **W8NGO**. Ed's station was a multi-op entry in the usual DX Contests such as the CQ World-Wide and the ARRL DX Contests - mostly SSB mode. Jack Falker, **W8KR** (ex-**W8SRK**) was a frequent operator and myself (**W8GF**), an occasional operator at Ed's station. His original station was located in Grosse Pointe and later Metamora in Lapeer County. More recently, he moved again, this time to North Carolina. After his death in 1999, Ed was interred in the Military Cemetery at Arlington, VA. Jack Falker, also a University of Michigan graduate, delivered the eulogy during the ceremony and now, to paraphrase Paul Harvey, here is the rest of the story as told by Jack.*

Edward Pridgeon MacKenzie, M.D.,  
Peninsular 1939

Dr. Ed MacKenzie died in June 1999, and was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

After finishing Michigan Medical School, Brother Mac was commissioned a Lieutenant (jg) in the U.S. Navy and assigned to the destroyer Harding for convoy escort duty and preparation for the invasion of Europe. In addition to his duties as squadron doctor, Mac utilized his skills gained as a long-time ham radio operator (**W8NGO**) to tune and service the

squadron's new radar systems and train the ship's radio operators.

On D-Day (June 6, 1944) Harding was assigned to provide close fire support for the U.S Army Ranger assault on Pointe du Hoc, a 300 foot cliff that bisects Omaha and Utah beaches. The Germans had placed heavy artillery on the cliff for use against the allied assault of the beaches. When it became apparent that the rangers were taking heavy casualties as they scaled the cliff, Brother Mac volunteered to take the ship's small motor whaleboat with a coxswain to save as many rangers as he could. Upon reaching the foot of the cliff, his boat came under heavy machine gun fire as he and the coxswain literally filled the boat with wounded, many of whom had serious back injuries as the result of grenades being rolled down the cliff face. To make matters worse, the invasion fleet pulled back while they were doing this, leaving them alone to tend the wounded throughout the night of June 6th. He quickly ran out of morphine and lost some men, but he saved many who would otherwise have perished. For this, Brother Mac was awarded the Silver Star with a V for valor, plus the deep respect of the Second Ranger Battalion.

Harding subsequently was detailed to the Pacific theater in 1945, for preparation of the invasion of Japan. It was there that Brother Mac was gravely wounded in a kamikaze attack, while performing surgery on a wounded sailor in the ship's wardroom. His injuries resulted in permanent disabilities, including the loss of his surgical skills, which few outside of his immediate family ever knew of, once he learned to walk again.

In addition to being a bona-fide hero, Brother Mac was a truly brilliant "renaissance man," a nice guy, and my friend.

For "the respect due their memory when dead"

Jack Falker, Peninsular 1962  
**W8KR**

*As footnote regarding the above, Stephen E. Ambrose mentioned Ed's contribution to the Normandy invasion in his book "D-Day", pages 393, 394.*

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Congrats!

K8MDU recently swapped his call sign and is now **KQ8D**. Congratulations, Roger!

Hazel Park Swap

The annual Hazel Park High School Swap located at 23400 Hughes Street (North of 9-Mile Road and West of John R.) will be held Sunday, January 16, 2005. Doors open at 8:00 AM. Vendors may enter as early as 5:00 AM Tables are available for \$14.00 and the entrance fee is \$5.00. Sponsorship as usual by the Hazel Park ARC. Talk-in on the DART Repeater 146.64 (down 600 and requires a 100 Hz PL tone). See their web-site for details: <http://www.qsl.net.w8hp/swap.html>. Tickets and table space may be reserved thru **K8KHZ** at **Sean@K8KHZ.com** Above information furnished by **K8KHZ** as forwarded by **K8SIX**.

VU4/Andaman Islands

Frustration for many of the brethren continues as they attempt to work this very rare DXCC Entity. Many complaints have been heard about this operation as mounted by a group of very dedicated VU-Hams. The primary

problem for many of us here in North America is that the regular path is directly over the pole. This coupled with low Solar Flux (90 to 100 at last measure) makes HF propagation very tenuous as best. From my observations, most of the QSOs made here in the ZI, have been on a skewed Long Path on the old-pro DX band, 20 Meters. This DX-pedition team is in there slugging away and doing a pretty good job under extremely adverse conditions and harsh criticism. They will be there until the end of the month, so there is still time to get at least one QSO with this very tough nut.

W8GF

BPL Notes

A recent letter from ARRL President **W5JBP** outlines the latest twist in their efforts to meet the threat presented by the BPL juggernaut. After what seemed like a blind rush toward disaster, the Federal Communications Commission, as result of the League's prodding, is now on tract to at least recognize the problems which will be created when and if BPL is implemented. A recent R&O (Report and Order) from the FCC states that harmful interference to licensed services is not acceptable. Two items are key in this instance. First of all, BPL equipment must be certified by the FCC Engineering Staff and second, a public database must be established to enable problem correction at the local level. It now seems that the FCC has finally recognized the potential interference problems that are bound to develop when BPL is implemented. Score one for the League!

The ARRL continues to lobby the FCC and the industry behind BPL to insure their awareness of the problems that lie ahead otherwise. But, the bottom line at this point, is that the FCC is willing to tolerate spurious radiation levels that all but guarantee harmful interference to Amateur Radio and many other services. This is now the focal point of the League's efforts. The ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund is soliciting donations to this end. If you are able, please help out. The threat is real and nearly upon us.

W8GF

SEMDXA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

South Eastern Michigan DX Association (SEMDXA)

Date: _____

Application for new membership _____ or Application for renewal _____ (check one)

Full membership _____ or Associate membership _____ (check one) Dues: \$15.00 annually

(See SEMDXA website for membership requirements)

Present Call Sign: _____ Previous Call Sign: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEMDXA

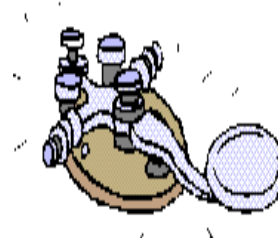
Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:

Leon Switzer, Treasurer

427 Jeffrey Avenue

Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

NOTE: TO RECEIVE THE CLUB NEWSLETTER "THE LONG PATH" YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!



January 2005

SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
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