



Long Path



Volume 24 Issue 4

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

January 2007



Greetings Fellow DXers!

Well, by the time you guys read this you will be playing with your new Christmas Toys. I know one of our members got an Icom 756 Pro III and I hope some others were that good during the year. I hope he gets past the learning curve in time to work the VU7. Hi, Hi.

Speaking of the VU7, I hope by now any of you that need VU7 are in the log. This has proven to be as tough an operation to snag as we had thought and more. Propagation has not been on our side here in Michigan, as usual, but let's hope that turns around in January when the second group goes there.

I would like to thank K8KHZ's brother for putting on the November presentation and showing us what it is like to be a ham in Australia. I hope he and his wife had a safe trip back and when they are in the area again, stop by at one of our meetings.

Good DXing gang and I look forward to seeing all of the you again on January 12th. Till then stay safe and 73.

K8SIX, President

November Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:55 PM by President **K8SIX**. Twenty-five members and guests present.

Treasurer **N8SNM**, tells us the Treasury has \$886.52. He wrote a check for \$221.15 for the **W3UR** program last month. Dues are due! We have thirty-three current paid up members.

K8DD related that **N8CQA** had another trip to the hospital but is home once again.

A reminder that there is no December **SEMDXA** meeting. The program for January will feature Doctor Rick (**NE8Z**). February, **N6JRL** will return with stories about his **3Y0X** DXpedition.

K8KHZ introduced his brother James Fleming (**VK4TJF**) who now lives and works in the Brisbane, Australia area and tells about ham radio down under. He began by showing a video of the Redcliff and District ARC "John Moyle Field Day" from March, 2006. Using Yagis and wire antennas they operated from a Scout Camp. Power was provided from a hire (rented) 20 kW generator ... a good time was had by all!

Next, James showed a power point presentation on the structure of amateur licensing via the Wireless Institute of Australia. The responsible government body is the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), however, the powers that be recognize Ham Radio as a self-regulated hobby so the first contact for prospective Hams is through clubs. There are three license classes

which include Foundation, Standard and Advanced Class licenses and, currently, you visit the nearest ACMA office to get your ticket.

Visitors to Australia do need to obtain a VK license and you can apply three months in advance -or- visit an ACMA office. You would be assigned a reciprocal VK call and it is renewable.

Clubs in VK land take part in many of the same activities as here including FM Repeaters, Satellites, Fox Hunts,

SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

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

Treasurer: Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

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 Chair: Sean Fleming,
K8KHZ

LP Publisher: Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

Swaps, homebrew, mobile, portable, contests, JOTA and Field Day.

The formal meeting closed at 8:40 PM followed by general fellowship activities.

AC8W, Secretary

Dues are Due

If you have not updated your dues obligation, please do so at your earliest convenience. You may either pay the annual \$20.00 fee directly to Brad our Treasurer at the January meeting or via USPS using the renewal coupon and address located at the end of this issue of the *Long Path*. Failure to pay up will result in your deletion from the *Long Path* circulation list. Also, keep in mind that membership dues are the main source of funding that feeds our excellent monthly programs. No other DX Club near our size is able to pull this coup off! How's it accomplished? Dedicated club officers doing their job -pure and simple. Open up your wallets and check books and keep our Treasury plush.

Magic Radio!

The Product Review section of the January, 2007 issue of QST featured a discussion about a crystal radio kit offered by ElmerRadio of Murray Utah. Your Editor purchased a unit using their Internet Website (www.elmerdude.com) . In addition to this little gem, many other products and parts are offered for sale at reasonable prices.

First off, what amazed me, is the

quickness of their delivery. My unit came within three days of ordering via Priority Mail- and right at the peak of the Christmas rush! I originally purchased it as a Christmas gift for my twelve year old grandson visiting us from Fruit Cove, Florida. Instead, after looking over the kit, I kept the original unit and ordered a second for him.

Assembly took about three hours total. Besides a schematic diagram, step by step instructions are included and a series of photos as well. This is well described in the QST review.

The radio works great ! You have your choice of using either of two supplied diode detectors. One unit is a common Germanium type and the other a Schottky diode. What was noted is that the Germanium produced the strongest audio signals but the Schottky unit allowed much superior selectivity. I added a miniature toggle switch on the side of my unit to select either diode as conditions dictated.

You may have to play with your earphone selection to get the best audio signals out of this little radio. Of six different headsets tried, my set of Sony's did the best job.

If you want to have a good time, I recommend this little gem. The price including delivery is only \$31.00. Money well spent!

W8GF

VU7LD!

Probably, as you read this, the current VU7 activity is nearing shut-down. Not much in the way of positive comments are heard by many US amateurs. To begin with, propagation was very marginal most of the time. This is understandable given that the Solar Flux hovered in the

70s with several severe magnetic storms thrown in for good measure. Add to this is the fact that this is a polar propagation path with high signal absorption. Our Ham brethren in the Western areas of the US (W0, W7 and W6) were particularly affected. Our local beam heading is in the neighborhood of 28°. Western areas of the US have a beam heading of near 0° making their path near trans-polar. Even some of the big-shooters had a tough time making a single 20-meter QSO. We can at least thank God for the little things!

This is not the entire story however. Vicious QRMers were having a great time. Most of it was from Europe although some originated here in the US. Also, European stations, with their propagational advantage, dominated since their peak openings frequently collided with our own. Many times 20 Meter Long Path openings occurred at the same time but the VU7 ops were either not aware or chose to ignore these band openings. Most Western US Qs were made on the Long Path.

Some of our club members worried that VU ops were not savvy enough regarding propagation - especially on the Long Path. This turned out to be exactly the case. Much of the financial support for DX-peditions comes from here in the US. Usually we are rewarded with conscientious operators at the other end who know how to take advantage of propagation. Most of us were disappointed in this case. The VU boys have much to learn but seem unwilling to listen and take even friendly advice. Personally, I would not give this effort a passing grade. When asked, I declined to make a financial contribution to support them at the onset.

VU7RG and XT2.. coming up!

W8GF

Paid up *SEMDXA* members in alphabetical order:

<u>CALL SIGN</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>CALL SIGN</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
AC8W	AC8W@COMCAST.NET	N4JQQ	CROWNHAVEN@BELLSOUTH.NET
AD4UU	AD4VU@COMCAST.NET	N8CQA	N8CQA@ARRL.NET
K8BB	K8BB@COMCAST.NET	N8HZM	MLS1@COMCAST.NET
K8CC	K8CC@COMCAST.NET	N8JV	N8JV@COMCAST.NET
*K8CW	K8CW@ARRL.NET	N8KF	N8KF@ARRL.NET
K8DD	K8DD@K8DD.COM	N8KIE	N8KIE@AOL.COM
K8ESQ	K8ESQ@SBCGLOBAL.NET	N8LJ	N8LJ@USOL.COM
K8FT	JIM.KUHNS@IEEE.ORG	N8MOJ	N8MOJ1@AOL.COM
K8GT	K8GT@ARRL.NET	N8MR	N8MR@ARRL.NET
K8IY	DFWOOD@OAKLANDCC.EDU	N8OZ	N8OZ@ARRL.NET
K8JM	K8JM@USOL.COM	N8QGC	N8QGC@ARRL.NET
K8KHZ	K8KHZ@K8KHZ.COM	N8SHZ	N8SHZ@COMCAST.NET
K8MSU	K8MSU@JUNO.COM	N8SNM	BNOWAK@SPEAKEASY.NET
*K8NA	K8NA@WIDOPENWEST.COM	N8ZX	N8ZX@TDS.NET
K8NWD	K8NWD@COMCAST.NET	NE8I	NE8I@ARRL.NET
K8SIA	K8SIA@ARRL.NET	NE8Z	NE8Z@YAHOO.COM
K8SIX	K8SIX@COMCAST.NET	W1SKU	W1SKU@ARRL.NET
K8UP	JOHN@FLEMING-PHOTO.COM	W4CEO	SCAT42@EARTHLINK.NET
K8UT	K8UT@ARRL.NET	W8AP	BEAGOLDSTONE@MAC.COM
K8VFB	K8VFB@ARRL.NET	W8GF	W8GF@AOL.COM
K8ZE	K8ZE@CHARTER.NET	W8LU	W8LU@W8LU.NET
K8ZZU	K8ZZU@SBCGLOBAL.NET	W8PP	W8PP@COMCAST.NET
KC8JAY	KC8JAY@ARRL.NET	W8SJ	W8SJ@AOL.COM
KC8OBH	KC8OBH@AOL.COM	W8SYR	JDBUHL@AOL.COM
KC8PKY	KC8PKY2004@YAHOO.COM	W8UA	W8UA@MYVINE.COM
KK8I	DL2HBX@DARC.DE	WA8BIJ	WA8BIJ@ARRL.NET
KP4E	KP4E@AMSAT.ORG	WD8S	WD8S@ARRL.NET
KQ8D	ROGER49201@YAHOO.COM	WQ8T	WQ8T@ARRL.NET
KT8X	KT8X@PRODIGY.NET	WZ8K	WZ8K.SEMDXA@MIQRP.NET
K8YTO	K8YTO@ARRL.NET		
LZ4GU	LZ4GU@YAHOO.COM		

*Indicates perpetual membership. 60 Total Call signs

Note: If your call sign does not appear on the above list, you will not receive further issues of the *Long Path* until your dues are brought up to date. Check with Brad, N8SNM *SEMDXA* Treasurer. If you have paid your 2005/2006 dues and your call is not indicated, check with Brad to resolve any issues.

Our perpetual roster contains a total of 236 call signs. Of these 14 are Silent Keys (SK).

SEMDXA Membership Silent Keys include the following: **KB8IO, KC8OB, KM8Y, N8EOA, N8FGH, NG8S, W8BXM, W8KPL, W8KZM, W8LZV, W8QFR, W8URM, WB8OHO and WD8CRY**

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: \$20.00 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

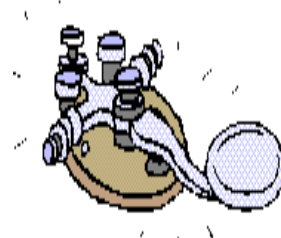
Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:

Brad Nowak, Treasurer

4665 Melanie Lane

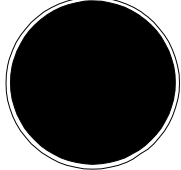
White Lake, Michigan 48383

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



January 2007

SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
	1  New Years Day		3  Full Moon		5  W1AW Qualifying Run	6 ARRL RTTY Test EUCW 160 Meter Test																																																																																																									
7 DARC 10 Meter Test	8	9	10  West Coast K6YR Qualifying Run	11	12	13 NA CW QSO Party Winter Field Day																																																																																																									
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