



Long Path



Volume 23 Issue 6

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

March, 2006



Greetings Fellow DXer's!

Well as of this writing the **3Y0X** team is packing up and getting ready to head for the boat. They still have OP B tent active with several stations still active including the EME station. In another 20 min I am hoping I can hear them. Ok well a guy can dream can't he. I hope all of you got them on at least one band for DXCC and from what I have seen by the online logs many of you have multiple band countries. Congrats everybody.

Well March 10th is right around the corner and I hope to see all of you at the meeting. This months presentation will be put on by **K9AJ** who has been on numerous IOTA DX-peditions. The most recent was **YN4/H79W** which was NA-228 for you IOTA chasers. Mike is going to have many stories to tell so this will be one meeting you will not want to miss.

At last months meeting we discussed voting on all the members donating \$20 toward a projector but after all was said and done the club decided on a voluntary donation program. We came up with a sizable donation already but if you have not yet donated we could sure use your help. One might say why don't we just use the current method of getting someone to borrow one from their work QTH. That works *but* most of us

are either retired or like Stan, **AC8W**, are retiring soon. Having our own projector eliminates the need to continually chase down a projector for every meeting. That being said the club would really appreciate any support you can give. Most members that have donated to date have donated \$20 but every little bit helps. Gene, **N8ZX** has donated about \$160.00 so far with more to come and I have sold my SSB 2 meter preamp and am channeling that money into the fund. Any funds above and beyond the cost of the projector will be used toward future presentations. I want to thank all of you for your support. OK gang the moon is coming over the horizon so have to scoot. Good luck and see you on March 10th at the Troy Elks Club.

K8SIX. President

3Y0X Donations

The now-concluded **3Y0X** operation was enormously expensive as you would expect. The chartered ship -the **DAP Mare-** plus crew and helicopter accounted for a very large portion of the expense. Otherwise nearly 70% of the costs of this DX-pedition has been borne by the 21 group members. A Japanese group has provided \$10,000.00 and the ARRL \$7,500.00! A sizeable amount was contributed by the NCDXF. If you would like to make a contribution, check the **3Y0X** web site for details. Also available are miscellaneous memorabilia items. The easiest way to get there is to type **3Y0X** within the Google search line.

QSL Via:

Bob Schenck N200
Post Office Box 345
Tuckerton, NJ 08087-0345.

Peter I information:

CQ Zone 12
ITU Zone 72
IOTA # AN-004
Grid Locator EC41

QSO breakdown is noted on page two inside. Log checks are available on the same web site noted earlier.

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**

W1FH (SK)

When your Editor got into the DXing game, **W1FH** was at the top of the Honor Roll - usually with **W8HGW** and **W3BES** in close contention. He and fellow Massachusetts DXer **W1GKK** were the only Hams to have worked all of the early deleted countries. The Operating News column in the August, 1954 issue of **QST** showed **W8HGW** with a mixed total of 253 followed by **W1FH** with 252. An interesting sidelight of that column depicted former **SEMDXA** club member **W8JBI** (now **N8GZ**) with a total of 200!

One seldom heard **W1FH** in the pile ups in those days unless you happened to arrive early because he didn't wait long to get his QSO. Even with his modestly equipped station he managed to break thru the din with ease. He was near the top in the Radiotelephone list which in those days was almost 100% Amplitude Modulation.

Now "ole Charlie" is a Silent Key having passed on January 21 at the age of 91. He was first licensed in 1930, was an FOC member and was elected to CQ's DX Hall of Fame in 1994. So-Long to an outstanding DXer from the days of yore!

W8GF

THE STAMP MAN

In case you may have missed last month's Newsletter, Bill Plum the foreign stamp provider extraordinaire is very much still in business. The difference now is that he has a competitor in James Mackey, K3FN.

You may reach Bill Plum at plumdx@msn.com and James Mackey at k3fn@aol.com

3Y0X QSO SUMMARY

	<u>SSB</u>	<u>CW</u>	<u>RTTY</u>	<u>JT65</u>
160	2	1312	0	0
80	3358	2502	0	0
40	5735	7161	0	0
30	0	9081	1101	0
20	13768	10377	1374	0
17	7003	6152	689	0
15	6339	3851	848	0
12	1726	2034	0	0
10	1602	782	1	0
6	0	1	0	0
2	0	2	0	113

MODE SUMMARY	SSB	CW	RTTY	JT65
	39,533	43,255	4,013	113

TOTAL QSOs: 86,914

The totals noted are near the top of the all-time record for DX-peditions. (**K1B** tops 'em all)

Especially interesting is the JT65 totals. North American amateurs haven't embraced this mode to a great extent. It doesn't take a great amount of equipment to get involved; just a computer equipped with a sound card and Windows operating system.

Software is available at **K1JT**'s web site as well as more than enough information to get started. Also available is a software package for simulation. You will need about 5mB of hard disk space.

WSJT software is useful for VHF and UHF EME work as well as scatter, tropo and meteor scatter propagation. For more information, enter **K1JT** at the Google Search Line.

FEBRUARY MINUTES

The **SEMDXA** meeting minutes for the February 10, 2006 gathering are not

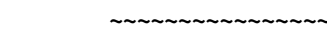
available as the March Newsletter is being prepared. What follows are some of the highlights of that meeting.

With a unanimous vote save one, a \$20.00 *voluntary* assessment was approved to allow the purchase of a projector for use during our meeting programs. All current **SEMDXA** members are urged to participate but not obligated to do so. In that same connection, our club President has asked for donations of miscellaneous ham gear that can be sold on eBay to help fund the project.

Club member **N8ZX** has donated equipment that has been auctioned at eBay for a total of \$160.00

The Program Director's job has been temporarily assumed by club President **K8SIX**.

The evenings program was provided by videos depicting the **3Y0PI** DX-pedition to Peter I in 1994. and the **FT5XO** DX-pedition at the Kerguelens this past year.



Treasury Report

Brad Nowak, **N8SNM** submitted the following:

Checking account balance:	\$475.35
Projector fund balance:	504.98
Undeposited funds (badges) :	30.00

The **SEMDXA** Projector fund is approaching the half-way point. If you haven't done so, send your contribution to **N8SNM**. Brad's address appears on the last page of this issue.

Thanks!

KP5 Fracas

The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, **W3UR** has published in great detail, the events leading up to the recent activation of KP5 (Desecheo). Unfortunately, the story has been copyrighted so we are unable to publish it in our Newsletter. At some point in the future, your Editor will contact Bernie about obtaining permission to publish the entire piece. In the meantime, here is a brief summary:

Kamal Sirageldin, **N3KS** is employed by a company involved in sensor and software technology located in Baltimore. With the possibility of operating from Desecheo, he volunteered to assist in a Federal Government project in that area of the Caribbean. He received permission from that Federal Agency for a short stay on Desecheo for an Amateur Radio operation. Kamal connected with Dave Collingham, **K3LP** and with a team of two began planning this mini DX-pedition.

The operation lasted a total of two days (December 16 and 17). A U.S. Radio Amateur filed a complaint with the Fish and Wild Life Service demanding that the operation be immediately terminated. At this point a U.S. Congress member got involved demanding cessation. Thus ended the KP5 episode.

A total of 7229 QSOs were made of which 6012 were with USA stations. The balance of the QSOs were scattered over most parts of the world with VE getting the next highest total at 293.

No doubt KP5 will remain among the top-ten most needed DXCC Entities for the time being.

QSL **KP5/N3KS** and **KP5/K3LP** via **W3ADC**.

W8GF

K9AY Receiving Antenna

W8GF installed the K9AY Low Frequency receiving antenna last fall. Previous receiving antennas were removed including a horizontal loop and pennant to minimize the possibility of interaction. The antenna -in kit form- was purchased from Array Solutions, Sunnyvale, Texas and priced at \$348.00. The K9AY receiving antenna system is described in detail on page 43 of the September, 1997 issue of QST Magazine.

The kit included everything required for a normal installation except a pipe to support the 25' mast, 50 ohm coaxial feedline and six wire shielded control cable and 80' of wire which is used to fabricate four -twenty foot radials that make up a ground plane. The main components are the mast assembly, a pair of diamond-shaped wire loops mounted at right angles to each other, a relay switching box which is mounted at the base of the mast at the point where the wire loops are terminated and a control box located at the operating position. A separate 12 VDC, 400 mA source is required to power the relay box. Supplied with the antenna kit is a comprehensive installation and checkout procedure. There is room for improvement in it's organization but otherwise adequate.

The antenna system requires a 42' diameter space that is as far as possible removed from other antennas. No tuning or pruning of the antenna system is required after installation. Frequency range according to the specifications is from VLF through 5 MHz.

Direction control is achieved through the use of relays which switch through the four quadrants from the control (operating) position. The control unit contains a secondary 8-position switch which adjusts the termination point between 340 to 680 ohms. A third toggle switch selects a 15dB pre-amplifier which includes a 5 MHz cutoff low-pass filter.

For additional information, type K9AY at the Google Search Line.

Installation in my case was completed in about six hours. Cable fabrication and installation took an additional four hours. Work can be done by one person but some additional help could have been useful at times. Quadrant direction must be selected at installation time. I used the classic NE, SE, NW, SW method which in general works well.

How does it perform? That's the question that comes up immediately when discussing this antenna with fellow Amateurs. What follows are my impressions after using this antenna for the past six months.

Noise: I found the antenna to be substantially quieter than the pennant antenna but not quite as quiet as the horizontal loop. To give you some idea, using the station transmitting vertical antennas that operate on 160 and 80 meters, locally generated (neighbors) computer birdies are not discernible while they are well above the noise floor with the K9AY receiving loop. The effects of static crashes are much less when comparing the loop vs the station transmitting antennas. As the direction switch is rotated one is impressed with the drop off in background noise. This is especially noted during the sunrise and sunset period. The K9AY receiving antenna gets high marks in this category.

Front/Back: The specifications note a 20 to 30 dB front to back ratio. End fire ratios are not mentioned. My experience is that this spec is more than difficult to sustain over a wide variety of operating conditions. There are times when signals off the front of the receiving lobe are at least 30 or more dB when compared with the back. At other times the opposite is noted -that is nearly zero difference is apparent

en switching between quadrants. The 8 position resistor termination select switch seemed to have very little effect in my installation. I set it at the #6 or #7 position simply because the instructions make this suggestion. This aspect requires additional study and experimentation.

Operation: Operating notes in the manual mention that this antenna has its greatest nulling capability with "skywave signals". This statement only touches on the subject! Of enormous importance is the incoming wave angle. High angle wave fronts are hardly suppressed at all whereas lower angles can be very significantly suppressed. Case in point; during the ARRL 160 Meter Contest this past December stations in the Dallas Texas area were nearly inaudible off of the NE Quadrant but S9+ on the SW quadrant. Another time with the NW quadrant active a station was calling CQ and nearly at the noise level. I thought sure it was a West Coast 6 or 7 but when switching to the NE quadrant the station turned out to be a W1 with a S9++ signals!

A number of stations in the Caribbean area were active during this contest. On several occasions no difference in signal level from these stations was discernible when switching between the SE quadrant and the NW quadrant! European stations were a totally different story. Without the steerable loops, no European DX would have been worked. For example, when switching between the station's vertical transmitting antenna and the K9AY Array, ON4UN signals went from buried in the noise to nearly solid copy. Same for a number of other European stations.

More recently, JA stations were solid copy on the 160 Meter band using the K9AY array and nearly at the noise level with the transmitting antenna. Quickly switching to 80 Meters

yielded the same results with JAs coming through solid copy with the K9AY array and difficult copy with the transmitting antenna. Other 160 Meter stations that were worked using the K9AY receiving array include 4J5A, VQ9LA, a dozen or more JAs, 6O0N, 3Y0X, 3V8DLH, UA0FZ, JW0HS and even MV Islander R1MVW.

Some final notes..... Over the past twenty years, I have been chasing aircraft low-frequency beacons. I have logged over 275 during this time which only scratches the surface of this pastime. The K9AY array is a very excellent tool in this connection due to its ability to deeply null competing beacons sharing the same or nearby frequencies. One of the Detroit area beacons "QG" is very strong and you would never know what was buried underneath until you are able to null it out and note what is there otherwise. I was able to log three different beacons sharing their frequency with QG. Broadcast band junkies will also appreciate the nulling capabilities of the K9AY array. Even ground wave BC propagation can be nulled which allows reception of otherwise undiscernible BC stations.

Regarding the 15 dB preamplifier included, I found it completely unnecessary when using with my main Transceiver -a Yaesu FT1000MP MkV. This transceiver has a special receiving antenna input which can be quickly selected via a front panel pushbutton.

My pennant antenna did a decent job but it takes nearly one minute to rotate it end to end. The K9AY array suffers no such shortcoming since one can instantly switch directions. Pennant users will appreciate this difference. For example, while listening for the 80 meter signals of 9N7JO, I was able instantly determine that his signal was best on the long path or SW quadrant. The pennant reaction time under these circumstances would be frustrating at best.

Another example was with the recent Peter I operation. There were times when their 160 meter signal was best on the SE quadrant but on the SW quadrant at other times. If you were using a pennant with the rotator set for North center, you would have to swing nearly 300 degrees to determine which direction made for best reception. Compare this with the instant switching capability of the K9AY array. No comparison!

DXers have had mixed results with the K9AY array receiving antenna. Most of the issues can be traced to nearby antenna wires, power lines, towers and other metal structures. This antenna works best when in the clear and supplied with a decent ground system.

DX Engineering offers another receiving antenna approach designed by 160 Meter Guru W8JI. This array uses four 102" whips and is fed with critical lengths of coaxial cable. It was been said that it provides performance equal to some Beverage-style antennas. It has one major drawback in that it requires considerably more space. But if one has the room, it may be worth checking out.

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@ARRL.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@ARRL.NET	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	GEOGBH@NETZERO.COM
K8VFB	K8VFB@ARRL.NET	W8GF	W8GF@COMCAST.NET
K8ZE	K8ZE@CHARTER.NET	W8LU	W8LU@SCHANG.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	KC8OBH@AOL.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@MIQRP.NET
LZ4GU	LZ4GU@YAHOO.COM		

*Indicates perpetual membership. 59 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 235 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

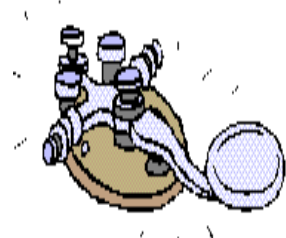
Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:

Brad Nowak, Treasurer

4665 Melanie Lane


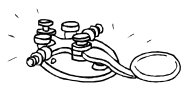






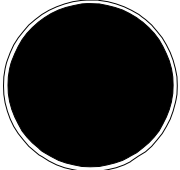
White Lake, Michigan 48383

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



March 2006

SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WI QSO PARTY</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">14</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Full Moon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AJF Birthday</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">K6YR Qualifying Run</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">17</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10-10 MOBILE TEST Cross Roads Swap RUSSIAN DX TEST VA QSO PARTY</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9KCC (KUWAIT) TEST Maumee Swap</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">20</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Spring Begins</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">21</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">W1AW Qualify- ing Run</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CQ WW WPX SSB TEST QRP SPRINT CW/PSK31</p>																																																																																											
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lake City Ohio Swap</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">29</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">New Moon</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">31</p>																																																																																												