

Long Path



Volume 24 Issue 6

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

March, 2007



President's Report

Greeting fellow DXers!

Last month's program was a good one by Don, **N6JRL** and his wife Sandy and certainly loaded with information not on the **3Y0X** video. I want to thank them for taking the time from their routines to do such a fantastic job. When asked where he is going next, I think we left him speechless. I proposed Yemen as it is warm there but it was sort of shrugged off.

Now let's discuss what we will do in March. On September 28th, 2006 the following stations were QRV from the Isle of Man, **GD0BPS**, **MD/K8DD**, **MD/AC8W** and **MD/W4DU**. The March meeting will feature Stan and Hank with an in depth report on the quality of beer and food on the Isle of Man. Make sure you are there for this one as it will certainly have some good stories. Oh, I am sure not as good as operating from the stall at the Grand Hotel, but good none the less. The weather is starting to break somewhat so make sure you get out for this one!

SEMDXA donated toward the **BS7H** DX-pedition which will take place in April, 2007. They could use further

funding so if you have a hare buck or two you can send it to them at the address published on their website located at <http://www.bs7h.com/> I am sure that they will be pleased to get any help.

Another DX-pedition coming up is Swains Island. The call will be **N8S** and it is scheduled for March 29 through April 24. **K3LP** will be part of this operation. We are trying to get him with his **KH5** experience fitted into our program schedule at some point.

Further information on the Swains Island operation will be published in the *DX Daily*.

Ok gang, I'll see you on March 9th, so 'till then 73 and great DXing.

K8SIX, President

N8CQA (SK)

Leon "Buck" Switzer, long-time **SEMDXA** member (s/n 076) and former club Treasurer has died after a long struggle with cancer. Buck will be best remembered as an animal rights advocate and QRP enthusiast. He kept the **SEMDXA** books for many years until ill health forced him to step aside. Buck was 66 years of age at the time of his death. So long to a nice guy!

SEMDXA Silent Keys include **KB8IO**, **KC8OB**, **KM8Y**, **N8CQA**, **N8EOA**, **N8FGH**, **NG8S**, **W8BXM**, **W8KPL**, **W8KZM**, **W8LZV**, **W8QFR**, **W8URM**, **WB8OHO** and **WD8CRY**.

Events Calendar

Most of the items noted in the March, 2007 Events Calendar are taken from the current issue of *QST Magazine*. For some reason, events for the last weekend in March were not included either in *QST* or at the ARRL website. Thus, nothing being noted is probably in error... Check your March issue of *CQ Magazine* - possibly a major event could be overlooked otherwise.

W8GF

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**

February Minutes

Note: Our Secretary AC8W was operating in the ARRL CW DX Contest (K8DD/HKI) and was not present at the February meeting. The Minutes are therefore minimal and compacted.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President **K8SIX**. Thirty-two members and guests present. New member Ed Keating, **KD8FCB** was noted and welcomed. Our Treasurer **N8SNM** reported a bank balance of \$1042.00.

K8NA announced that his DX-Cluster Repeater is permanently off the air and the Internet connection likewise. End of an era!

A donation for the **BS7H** up-coming April DX-pedition of \$50.00 was approved by the membership.

N6JRL provided our program. Seamlessly, Don articulated the monologue while his wife Sandy (**N3TQU**) ran the projection equipment. The subject was last year's DX-pedition to Peter I Island in the Antarctic circle. Sensational photos!

K8SIX suggested that Don consider **7O** as the next destination. Don was unresponsive while his wife frowned!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM to general fellowship

K8NWD

Acting Secretary

Packet Cluster

The following item was supplied by former club member Steve Murphy, **N8NM** (ex **K8VO**, **WD8O** etc)

I saw on the Mad River Club reflector that Ted is going to shut down the

K8NA DX Cluster node. I'm sorry to hear this. Ted has done an incredible job in providing this valuable service to the local community for the better part of the past 20 years.

Even though the Cluster network has grown from a few nodes interconnected via packet radio over the span of a few hundred miles to this word-wide network, connected via the Internet, I think it is important that local DXers have a node in their community where they can connect.

For that reason, SEMDXA members are welcome to connect to my node (N8NM.SERVEBEER.COM), located in Waterford. The node runs the DX Spider software and has been operational for about a year and a half from my QTH in Waterford. It connects to the worldwide network at three points; N2KI in NY, K4JW in TN and GB7DJK in the UK, so the "feed" of spots from the outside world is very reliable.

At this point, the node accepts connects via Telenet only, however, I would consider installing a Packet port if there is enough interest.

Please feel free to pass this along to the rest of the club.

73,
Steve, **N8NM**

Roster

The **SEMDXA** roster included with each issue of the *Long Path* has been updated and reflects the most accurate data on hand at this time. A total of 47 paid-up members are in good standing as of February 9, 2007. The perpetual roster presently totals 237. Serial number 1 belongs to Ted, **K8NA** while serial number 237 belongs to our newest member Ed Keating, **KD8FCB**. The Silent Key roster totals 15 call signs.

Last year at this time our active membership totaled 60. This drop of 12 members can probably be traced to low solar flux and poor propagation on the higher bands. But, soon, solar flux will increase, 10 Meters -the backbone of Amateur Radio- will open again and our club membership will flourish as before. We should begin to see a substantial improvement in propagation by next fall if the prognosticators are correct. But, then, there is always the possibility that Maunder Minimum will re-appear. Ugh!

W8GF

DX Prospects

With Solar Flux stalled in the 75 to 80 range, propagation on our higher bands will continue to be spotty. On the other hand however, the low bands 80 and 160 will continue to benefit by low numbers.

Nevertheless, we have some excellent DX-peditions coming up in the months ahead and -as usual- we will have to make the best of what propagation we have. Probably, the most notable is **N8S**, Swains Island which is scheduled between April 4 and April 15. An international group which includes **K3LP** and **K1LZ** will no doubt reduce the number of DXers needing Swains.

Here is how the German DXers rank their most needed DX entities:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. KH8/S | 6. VP8/O |
| 2. BS7H | 7. ZL8 |
| 3. KP1 | 8. KP5 |
| 4. 3Y/B | 9. P5 |
| 5. VU7 | 10. FO/M |

MAUNDER MINIMUM!

The following item appears in the Internet Wikipedia Encyclopedia

The Maunder Minimum is the name give to the period roughly from 1645 to 1715 A.D. when sunspots became exceedingly rare as noted by solar observers of the time. It is named after E. W. Maunder who discovered the dearth of sunspots during that period by studying records from these years. During one 30 year period within the Maunder Minimum, for example, astronomers observed only about 50 sunspots, as opposed to a more typical 40,000 to 50,000 spots!

The Maunder minimum occurred between 1645 and 1715 when only about 50 spots appeared as opposed to the typical 40,000 - 50,000 spots. The minima counts for a 10-year periods from 1610 - 1681 are as follows:

DECADE	SUNSPOTS
1610	9
1620	6
1630	9
1640	2
1650	3
1660	1
1670	0
1680	1

During the Maunder Minimum enough sunspots were sighted so that 11-years cycles could be extrapolated from the count. The maximum occurred in 1674, 1684, 1695, 1705 and 1716.

The sunspot activity was then concentrated in the southern hemisphere of the Sun except for the last cycle when the sunspots appeared in the northern hemisphere too.

According to Sporer's law, at the start of a cycle spots appear at ever lower latitudes until they average at about lat. 15 degrees at solar maximum. The

average then continues to drift lower to about 7 degrees and after that, while spots of the old cycle fade, new cycle spots start appearing again at high latitudes.

The visibility of these spots is also affected by the velocity of the sun's rotation at various latitudes

Solar Latitude	Rotation period
0 degrees	24.7 days
35 degrees	26.7 days
40 degrees	28.0 days
75 degrees	33.0 days

Visibility is somewhat affected by observations being done from the ecliptic. The ecliptic is inclined 7 degrees from the plane of the Suns' equator (latitude 0 degrees).

The Maunder Minimum coincided with the middle -and coldest part- of the so-called Little Ice Age, during which Europe and North America, and perhaps much of the rest of the world, were subjected to bitterly cold winters. Whether there is a causal connection between low sunspot activity and cold winters is the subject of ongoing debate (e. g. Global Warming).

The low solar activity during the Maunder Minimum also affected the amount of cosmic radiation reaching the Earth. The resulting change in the production of carbon-14 during that period caused an inaccuracy in radiocarbon dating until this effect was discovered.

Solar activity also affects the production of beryllium-10, and variations in that cosmogenic isotope are studied as a proxy for solar activity.

Other historical sunspot minimum have been detected either directly or by the analysis of carbon-14 in ice cores or tree rings; these include the Sporer Minimum (1450-1540) and less markedly the Dalton Minimum (1790-1820). In total

there seem to have been 18 periods of sunspot minima in the last 8,000 years and studies indicate that the sun currently spends up to a quarter of its time in these minima. One recently published paper, based on an analysis of a Flamsteed drawing, suggests that the Sun's rotation slowed in the deep Maunder Minimum (1677 - 1700)

What if?

The prospects of another Maunder Minimum are scary for Dxers! Solar flux would never likely exceed 75 or 80 tops. Probably averaging around 66 to 70 according to most algorithms available in text books and scientific journals.

With maybe an occasional opening in Southerly directions, 10-Meters would be dead for years. At peak times 15-Meters would open to Europe on rare occasions. Absolutely no 6-Meter F2 band openings would be noted. Es openings may or may not be affected by a Maunder Minimum. The jury is still out on this issue.

20-Meters would be strictly a daylight band. 40-Meters would likely be the main DXing band. Low band DXers would prosper because 80 and 160-Meters would not likely be negatively affected.

The experts are divided on the next sunspot cycle. Many think the next cycle will rival high-flying cycle 19 while others predict a very low cycle – probably the lowest in many years.

The next few years will tell the story for both radio propagation and the current Global Warming controversy

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
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.COM	N8LJ	N8LJ@USOL.COM
K8ESQ	K8ESQ@SBCGLOBAL.NET	N8MOJ	N8MOJ1@AOL.COM
K8FT	JIM.KUHNS@IEEE.ORG	N8MR	N8MR@HOTMAIL.COM
K8JM	K8JM@USOL.COM	N8OZ	N8OZ@ARRL.NET
K8KHZ	K8KHZ@YAHOO.COM	N8SNM	BNOWAK@SPEAKEASY.NET
K8MSU	K8MSU@JUNO.COM	N8ZX	N8ZX@TDS.NET
*K8NA	K8NA@ARRL.NET	NE8I	NE8I@ARRL.NET
K8NWD	K8NWD@COMCAST.NET	NE8Z	NE8Z@YAHOO.COM
K8SIA	K8SIA@ARRL.NET	NG8E	NG8E@RADIOAMATEUR.FR
K8SIX	K8SIX@COMCAST.NET	W1SKU	W1SKU@HUGHES.NET
K8UP	JOHN@FLEMING-PHOTO.COM	W4CEO	SCAT42@EARTHLINK.NET
K8VJV	K8VJV@ARRL.NET	W8AP	BEAGOLDSTONE@MAC.COM
K8YTO	K8YTO@ARRL.NET	W8GF	W8GF@AOL.COM
K8ZZU	K8ZZU@SBCGLOBAL.NET	W8LU	W8LU@SCHANG.NET
KC8JAY	WALLACE@YAHOO.COM	W8PP	W8PP@COMCAST.NET
KC8OBH	KC8OBH@AOL.COM	W8SJ	W8SJ@AOL.COM
KD8FCB	SCOTMAN1@EARTHLINK.NET	WA8BIJ	WA8BIJ@ARRL.NET
KK8I	DL2HBX@DARC.DE	WD8S	WD8S@COMCAST.NET
KQ8D	ROGER49201@YAHOO.COM	WQ8T	WQ8T@ARRL.NET
LZ4GU	LZ4GU@YAHOO.COM		

*Indicates perpetual membership. 47 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 2006/2007 dues and your call is not indicated, check with Brad to resolve any issues.

Our perpetual roster contains a total of 237 call signs. Of these 15 are Silent Keys (SK).

SEMDXA Membership Silent Keys include the following: **KB8IO, KC8OB, KM8Y, N8CQA, 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

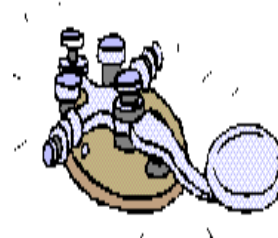
Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:

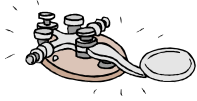
Brad Nowak, Treasurer

4665 Melanie Lane

White Lake, Michigan 48383

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





March 2007



SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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