



# Long Path



Volume 20 Issue 7

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

April, 2003

## March Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:50 PM by President **K8SIX**. Twenty-two members and guests present. Introductions included call sign and home QTH.

**W8LU** introduced Uli, **DL2HBX** who is living the Detroit area on a work assignment. An active DXer and con-tester, Ken (**W8LU**) and Uli first met at Friedreichschafen and have maintained a friendship for several years.

Treasurer **N8CQA** reported a current balance of \$883.28. A proposal by **K8SIX** that the club purchase a combination VCR/DVD device was passed by members present. The cost is estimated at \$175.00

**K8SIX** proposed that **SEMDXA** sponsor a plaque for the Michigan QSO Party at a cost of approximately \$60.00. Seconded by **K8CC** and passed by the membership present.

**W8LU** suggested that we find out where the club slide projector is and have one person responsible for all club equipment. He further suggested that possibly **K8GT** has the projector now. **K8NA** requested that a note be placed in the Long Path in an effort to locate the clubs slide projector. If anyone knows for sure of its' whereabouts, send an e-mail to **W8LU**.

**K8SIX** mentioned some upcoming programs including **K8DD** & **AC8W** telling about their recent V4 trip and **DL2HBX** speaking about his **CN8WW** participation as well as several others.

**K8NA** mentioned that Bob Anderson, **W8KZM** from Saline is very sick and the prognosis not favorable.

**N8LJ** brought up the suggestion to move the meeting to 7:30PM instead of 8:00PM. After much discussion the motion was seconded by **K8ESQ** and passed by the membership present.

**AC8W** said he and **KA8AMX** as well as **K8DD** and his XYL Kathie had a great vacation on St. Kitts. More details next month.

Many thanks to **LZ4GU** for bringing a case of Kamenitza - a very tasty Bulgarian brew!

Tonight's program features another outstanding video produced by **9V1YC** this time the **ZL9CI** Campbell Island DXpedition. This was the first utilization of the good ship Braveheart in a DXpedition. The trip involved two and one half years planning and when final landing permission was received it stipulated that there would be no overnight stay on the island.

Departing Wellington, New Zealand, they traveled 1400 km to Campbell at 52° South latitude. They entered Perserverance Bay where the plan was to use the Meteorology Station for operations. Operation began at 1500Z January 7, 1999.

Campbell had seen extensive whaling use, sheep farming and occupation during World War II for weather reporting. The Metrological Station was abandoned in 1995 and it is now a conservation area with very limited access permitted. Wild life is abundant including rare Hookers

Sea Lions, lots of birds and walrus. It boasts the worlds southern-most tree, in fact the only tree on the island, a spruce that is over 100 years old.

A typical daily schedule included a before dawn wakeup for the morning crew, breakfast and a ferry to the island. Relief crews would come on the island and take over until they had to shut down at dusk. One storm casualty was on the 40M Four Square vertical array that was snapped when a sea lion snagged a guy wire. Repair

## SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

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

*Vice-president:* John Millet, **K8JM**

*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**

was made with a piece of scrap wood and duct tape. Despite the restriction on hours of operation, the team made over 96,000 QSOs by the time they shut down and departed on January 12.

This was another great video..... hope everyone gets a chance to see it some time.

Thanks again to **N8LJ** for bringing the amplifier.

**AC8W**, Secretary

### **W8KZM SK**

Sad news about one of our stalwarts, Bob Anderson, **W8KZM** of Saline, Michigan became a Silent Key on March 14, 2003 after a short but deadly illness. Bob held **SEMDXA** perpetual membership number 166 and was a very active DXer. Bob is on the DXCC Honor Roll, holds 5-Band DXCC, WAZ and was an ARRL life member. Bob was a GMI BSME graduate and later earned an MSEE from the University of Michigan. He retired from Ford Motor Company after 27 years service in 2000. He was first licensed in 1952. Bob is interred at the Macon Cemetery in Macon Township, Michigan. He is survived by daughters Vicky and Valery, and wife Maryanne.

### **K1B QSLs**

A serious glytch developed with **K1B's** QSL efforts. However, **K4YL** has come to the rescue and has the logs and will provide the needed Baker Island pasteboards. Turn around time is less than three weeks. You can reach **Steph en**, **K 4 Y L** at : **K4YL@highstream.com**. No bureau cards please and don't forget an SASE! Also, including a small donation to offset the cost of printing the cards will be most welcomed.

**W8GF**

### **The DX Master!**

As incredible as it sounds, Don Miller, **W9WNV** (now **AE6IY**) will be at the Dayton Hamvention during the DX Forum! Don plans to speak about his experiences over the years and he has plenty to talk about. This will be a great opportunity to see this legendary DX operator. As a side note, **W3UR's** Daily DX/Weekly DX booth will be noticeably absent from Dayton due to some unresolved issues. Bernies plans to attend the festivities but strictly as a spectator.

### **President's Report**

I don't have much for this months report other than I received an e-mail from **NE8Z** who is currently at the station of **LU1ZA**. Here is what he has to say:

"**LU1ZA**; I spent all yesterday morning with him and **LU4DXU** at the Antarctic Logistic Navel Base. The place just blew me away. They let me take video and slides and then the Captain of the Base gave me a professionally made video to show at **SEMDXA**. The video runs one hour and shows the 2000 trip to the South Pole by foot, tractor and etc

"I also have your QSLs from **LU1ZA** - delivered in person! Nice color QSLs (**LU1ZD** and **LU1ZG** from two different Antarctic Bases. They have an Icom Transceiver, AL84 Amplifier and stacked KLM Yagis pointed South.

"73 for now and hope to hear you guys this afternoon/evening.  
Rick"

**NE8Z** mentioned that his TS50 went on the fritz so for the most part he will be off the air unless operating as a guest somewhere.

See you at the April, 2003 meeting.

**K8SIX**

### **The Michigan QSO Party**

A number of **SEMDXA**ers are involved in the Michigan QSO Party (MiQP). This on-the-air event occurs every April and is sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club. Many years ago it was held in conjunction with "Michigan Week" sponsored by our state government, but scheduling conflicts with the Dayton Hamfest ultimately ended the collaboration. (Is there even a "Michigan Week" any more?)

While being the center of attention for Michigan chasers might not equal the thrill of being on **VKØ** or **ZL9**, it still is a lot of fun. The contest rules put together by **MRRRC** focuses the activity over a compact contest period. The top single-op scorers are making almost 800 QSOs in twelve hours!

The 2003 MiQP begins on Saturday, April 19 at 12:00 noon local time here in Michigan (1600Z) and runs until 12:00 midnight the same day (0400Z the next day UTC). This means you can sleep in a little, maybe get a chore or two done, and then have an early lunch with the family before the contest begins. Similarly, because the contest ends at midnight, you still have all day Sunday for your regular activities.

MiQP takes place on the 80M thru 10M bands. (Prior to 1999, MiQP rules allowed VHF QSOs but this added little to the on-air activity.) The majority of activity occurs on 40M, due to it's consistent skip zone to major population centers. 20M is a close second for activity, particularly if skip is short. It can be hard to find MiQP activity on 15M and 10M. However, there are recommended activity times for these bands and far away MiQPers (like DX and West Coast USA) really appreciate MI stations that spend some time on the high bands. 80M is usually good at night.

The contest exchange is easy - a sequential serial number and your county (for MI stations) and state/province for non-MI. DX stations are simply logged as "DX". A station can be worked once on CW and once SSB on each of the five contest bands.

Each CW QSO counts two points, and each SSB QSO counts one point. Multipliers are MI counties (83 total), 49 states and 14 Canadian provinces. Multipliers are counted separately on phone and CW - i.e., if you work Oakland county and phone and CW, regardless of band, it counts as two multipliers. Final score is QSO points times multipliers.

One thrilling aspect to MiQP is the number of mobile stations that are typically active. If you hear a callsign such as "K8CC/MACK" it's K8CC operating mobile from Mackinac county. Mobile stations are counted as new stations every time they move to a new county, so they can be worked again and again for new multipliers and QSOs. Last year there were twelve mobile stations that were active full time during MiQP, operating from all 83 MI counties. However, since the mobiles are always moving, they are typically in a county only 30 minutes or so which means the sharp op needs to be on his or her toes to grab the QSO. And you thought catching a rare island DXpedition was hard...

At this point, you're probably asking "What's in it for me?" In-state, the top station in each of the major categories (single-op/high-power, single-op/low-power, single-op/QRP, multi-op and mobile) each receives a fine plaque commemorating their achievement. In addition, the top five stations in each category receive a certificate. There are also plaques and certificates for out-state stations, including one for the out-state station who works the most in-state counties (which appeals to the

DXer).

MiQP has it's own web site @ <http://www.miqp.org> where you can find just about everything you'll need to operate the contest: complete rules, downloadable log, multiplier and summary sheet files, names of logging programs which support MiQP, and even a free demo version of K8CC's NA Contest Logging Program that can be downloaded. There is a wealth of other MiQP information on the site û county scoring records by category, previous years results, FAQs on MiQP topics such as submitting an electronic log, etc. There is also a MiQP e-mail reflector where contest plans are shared and discussed.

Over the past four years, I've operated mobile in MiQP along with Ken/W8MJ. So far we have operated from 65 of the 83 MI counties, and hope to complete the remaining 15 (all in the SW part of the state) during the 2003 event. Through these mobile trips, we've discovered that Michigan is a truly interesting state, with a lot of wilderness. Indeed, 53 of the 83 MI counties have not seen a fixed station operation since the new rules took effect in 1999.

Why not join us in the 2003 Michigan QSO Party and hand out some MI QSOs? MiQP activity has been increasing steadily, but we want to continue to see the event grow and your participation will help make that happen. We'll look for you on the air on April 19, 2003!

**K8CC**



## DX PROSPECTS

As this is being written, one of the crackerjack operators at **STORY** is knocking 'em off on 14027 kHz. This is a very talented operating crew - maybe one of the best ever. They are handling huge pileups, all under control mostly with great patience. A far cry from some of the more recent operations! QSL via **DL5NAM**. On line logs are available at: <http://www.df3cb.comn/stOry>.

Solar flux is on the rise again after sinking to a value of 91 recently. This is the lowest solar flux since May, 1998. You may recall that the lowest value ever recorded was 68 so we are not too far away from that figure. In spite of this, ten meters continues to provide excellent DXing to many of areas of the world. Based on current solar activity projections, we will likely see a dramatic reduction in the number of ten meter openings come next fall. With this in mind, it seems that we should take advantage of ten meter openings now!

Six meter openings in this part of the world are nil! However, there seems to be an inverse relationship between sunspots and sporadic E-layer openings seen frequently in the late spring and summer months. You can expect openings to Europe and the Caribbean area. Caribbean openings seem to peak in May and June while European openings generally occur more frequently in the month of July.

Coming Dxpeditions include OY, Faeroe Island (April 1 thru 10) with a major effort on 80 meters, 7P Lesotho (early July) and P2 Papua New Guinea (Japanese ops).

Good luck and DX!

**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***

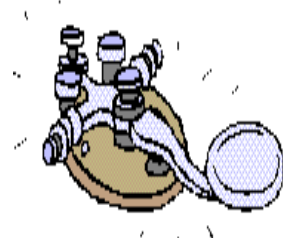
***Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:***

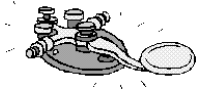
***Leon Switzer, Treasurer***

***427 Jeffrey Avenue***

***Royal Oak, Michigan 48073***

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





# April 2003

## SEMDXA Monthly Planner



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 150px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">1</p> <p>APRIL FOOLS DAY</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> </div> <p>NEW MOON</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">3</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> </div> <p>W1AW QUALIFYING RUN</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">5</p> <p>EA RTTY TEST MARAC CHC TEST MO QSO PARTY MT QSO PARTY QCWA QSO PARTY SP DX TEST</p>	
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