

Long Path



Volume 24 Issue 7

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

April 2007



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Fellow DXers!

I want to start my column by thanking Stan and Hank for another great presentation. They burned the midnight oil to get the two presentations done in time, but did a great job. Based on some of the their comments during the presentation, I think they both had a good time at each location.

Our April meeting is tentative at this point but if things pan out we will have the **5A7A** video which I hear from Uli is a good one. They are about to be released and we are in hopes ours arrives in time. If not, I have an alternative plan. Want to know what the alternative plan is? Come to the troy Elks on April 13th and see.

Well gang the 2006/2007 top band season is just about to come to a close. I received a report from **N8MR** that he worked a couple of JAs on 160 this morning to give WAC on that band. Congrats Mike and keep up the good work.

Now is the time though to get those 6-Meter antennas ready as we will be seeing some activity very soon. It is a fun band and you don't have to be a

big gun to have some fun. Try it, you'll like it.

At the March meeting I mentioned that our officers -myself included- are resigning at the end of this term. We have one person showing interest in doing the *Long Path* but we need more than that to keep the club running. Keep that in mind at the May and June meetings.

'Till next month, 73 and good DX.

K8SIX, President

Long Path Content

At the suggestion of *SEMDXA* Management, the e-Mail Roster and Membership Renewal Coupon pages have been eliminated from the *Long Path* beginning with this issue. Since this information is readily available on the *SEMDXA* website, it was deemed redundant to include this within each issue of the *Long Path*. Reiterating, it will be necessary to check into *SEMDXA*'s website to view the current e-Mail Roster and Membership Renewal Coupon.

Long Path Editor/Publisher

Michigan QSO Party

Michigan QSO Party is coming up this month. See details inside. Take some time during the contest weekend and hand out a few Qs!

ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS

Although it is only April, it is time to think about *SEMDXA* elections which will be held in June with candidate nominations submitted at the May meeting. With the exception of Treasurer **N8SNM**, our present management team will retire at the end of this term and a full group of new club officers will be elected. A replacement *Long Path* Editor will be appointed also. *SEMDXA* needs you now! Any volunteers?

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**

Minutes of the March 9, 2007 SEM-DXA Meeting

Called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President, **K8SIX**. Thirty-one members and guests present.

Al related that a memorial was sent to the Hawkeye No-kill Animal Shelter in memory of, **N8CQA**, who passed away in February. **AC8W** said that a memorial get together will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 24th at the American Legion Hall in Marysville, MI. The family says all are invited.

Treasurer **N8SNM** reports a February ending balance of \$1,134.28. Dues are due.

Secretary Stan's minutes were printed in the *Long Path*. Please sign the attendance sheet.

K8ZZU has for sale two QSL Boxes that will hold approximately 3K cards. Contact him if interested.

Please consider running for a club office. **K8SIX** will not run again, **W8GF** will not continue as *Long Path* Editor/Publisher and **AC8W** does not want to continue as Secretary. Step up and be counted.

President Al introduced our own **AC8W** and **K8DD** as the program for this month. They told of two different kinds of DX-peditions; one a vacation that included Ham Radio and the other, a contest expedition. A Power-Point presentation was shown for each.

On September 20th, 2006, Hank and his XYL Kathie and Stan and his wife Trish, **KA8AMX**, flew to England. They spent a week in London and were joined by Ken, **W4DU**, and his wife Lynn. They enjoyed the sites and then Hank and Stan and wives went back to Gatwick Airport to rent a car

and drive to the home of Dick, **G0BPS** and his wife Daphne who live at Folkestone on the English Channel (in fact the 'Chunnel' passes beneath their house!). After spending the night they drove across country to Liverpool to get the ferry which would take them to the Isle of Man.

They had to drive another seventy miles north to Heysham when their car ferry was cancelled due to inclement WX. The trip from Heysham to Douglas, the capital of IOM, took about three hours and they were able to hook up with Ken and Lynn who flew over from London. After about a fifteen mile drive and dinner at a pub we found the long lane to our rental house.

The house they rented was the Swiss Chalet, Ballamoar Castle, Sandygate. It was a very picturesque and had five bedrooms and three floors. Stan and Trish got the top floor bedroom up the winding stairs and the rest of the bedrooms were on the first floor. The living room, dining room and kitchen were on the ground floor.

Antennas were set up the next morning and included a buddipole, a buddistick, a **G5RV**, a 30m dipole, a 40m half-square. Stan, Hank and Ken used MD/home call and Dick used **GD0BPS**. Hank did primarily CW, Stan mostly CW with some SSB and Ken was CW only with his 'Blue Cool Radio' a new German kit. Dick operated mostly PSK.

Operating was casual and plenty of time was allotted for sight seeing. Narrow roads, castles, the Great Laxey Wheel, and many lighthouses were seen.

After a week we went back to Douglas and boarded the car ferry for the ride back to Liverpool. This ship was a large catamaran and it gave new meaning to the term 'rock and roll'. After a visit to 'Beatlemania' at the Liverpool Docks we all got in the cars to drive to Rochdale, north of Manchester, to attend the G-

QRP Club Convention which is hosted by Rev. George Dobbs, **G3RJV**. George's church was the facility used and it started at 9:00 a.m. and went till 4:00 p.m. Lots of seminars and good food were highlights in addition to seeing a different kind of 'Junque' then is seen stateside. Hams from twelve different DX countries attended.

After a drive down country back to Gatwick we flew home ending the vacation/DX-pedition.

The second part of the presentation show slides of the February, 2007 contest expedition to HK1. The same four couples who went to Isle of Man rented a house near Clermont, FL so the guys could attend Hamcation in Orlando and represent QRP Amateur Radio Club International. After a week in FL, Hank and Stan boarded a shuttle in Orlando for the hour-long trip to Miami. At Miami they changed to Avianca flight 35 and flew three hours across the Caribbean to land in Cartagena, Columbia.

After a learning experience with baggage handlers at the airport they got in a taxi who took them to Loquito, Edificio Marina del Rey, their home for the next week. Tony, **HK1AR**, has a penthouse apartment on the twelfth floor of a fourteen story building (Marina del Rey). On the roof is a fifty foot tower with a TH6DXX for 10-15-20 and a two element 40m beam. He had put up dipoles for 80 and 160. Stan brought along a 30m dipole and that went up about twenty feet on the tower. Hank brought his Buddistick and he used that on 17m.

Tony provided a TS-850 and an Alpha 76 to use in the shack. Conditions were great on 30 and 40m and we had some great JA runs on both bands. We were looking forward to the ARRL DX CW Test.

Murphy struck at the beginning of the

test when the TS-850 suddenly would not key the amp. After a twenty minute delay during which Hank's K2 was put in line we started calling 'CQ Test'. Hank got some sleep and when he came back a few hours later Stan had about 1,000 QSOs in the log. We varied on/off times to allow each of us to get some rest. Pile-ups were huge on most bands and we even worked a hundred or so on 10m. When the test ended Sunday evening we had 4,800 contacts recorded (before dupes) which may be our best two op, single transmitter effort to date.

Monday was our sight seeing day when we visited Cartagena Antiqua (the Old City) which has a wall made famous in the movie 'Romancing the Stone'. Many beautiful buildings, parks and cathedrals were seen and they even had a pick pocketing experience to make their visit complete. Cartagena is a resort city and has great food, beautiful inhabitants and lots of street vendors trying to sell you anything you need. Weather this time of year was consistently 90 degrees during the day and 85 at night and always a breeze blowing.

After more operating it was time to head home. Wednesday, February 21st was our travel day and Stan estimated his baggage was x-rayed at least five times. Everything was taken out of his check-on luggage at the airport in Cartagena and the inspector got a smile on his face when he unpacked a t-shirt with a picture of the drug lord Pablo Escobar Stan had bought as a joke. When the flight was finally called and hour late they boarded and flew back to Miami, went through US immigrations and customs and then took the shuttle flight back to Orlando where Hank met Kath and Stan flew on to Flint. A bad case of Montezuma's Revenge notwithstanding, it was a great DX-pedition. A great trip and stories.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. to general fellowship.

AC8W, Secretary

Michigan QSO Party!

The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) is an operating event held annually with Michigan as the center of attention. This article is a quick overview for those new to MiQP, to explain what it is and to offer encouragement to jump in and participate.

First of all, what is a QSO party? Over the years, this term has come to define an on-the-air operating event focusing on a particular geographic area. Amateurs inside the target area (in this case Michigan) earn points towards their QSO party score for making contacts with other amateurs located anywhere, while amateurs outside of the target area get QSO party points only for contacting amateurs inside the target area.

Perhaps the next question is: Is the MiQP a contest? Yes it is - the entrants are participating against one other and plaques/certificates are awarded after it is over. But don't let that scare you off - the MiQP is a lot less intense than other contests you might be familiar with, such as Sweepstakes, DX contests, or even Field Day. The bands are not as crowded as during those other events, and the operating style is a lot more relaxed. It's a great venue for a first-timer to get their feet wet.

Why might you want to participate in the MiQP? First of all, it's a great opportunity to hone your HF operating skills or work the bugs out of your HF station. MiQP can provide a concentrated dose of operating that will crack the rust off your CW ability or brush up on your phone operating techniques, skills that you can use in other on-the-air activities.

The fun thing about MiQP for Michigan amateurs is that we are the center of attention. When a Michigan station calls "CQ MIQP", there will usually be several replies. Many MiQP participants make several hundred contacts during the event, even with modest stations such as barefoot transceivers and dipoles. For many, there is a tangible feeling of camaraderie as you work fellow Michiganders, some located in sparsely populated counties with exotic names like Chippewa, Missaukee, or Presque Isle.

What does it take to participate in the MiQP? All it takes is to get on the air during the MiQP period and make contacts with other participants. When it's over, mail in your log if you like so that it can be checked and your score included in the results; you may even win a certificate or plaque. If you include your radio club's name in your entry, then your score will be tabulated along with other member's scores in a separate sub-competition to determine the top Michigan club in the MiQP that year.

When does MiQP happen? MiQP occurs the third Saturday of April every year. For 2007, the starting date for MiQP is Saturday, April 21. The contest period begins at noon local time here in Michigan (1200 EDST or 1600Z) and runs to local midnight (2400 EDST or 0400Z on April 22). The contest period was deliberately chosen to be easy to fit into your weekend schedule so you can get up Saturday morning, get some chores or family activities done, and sit down for an afternoon or evening of operating.

Making MiQP QSOs is easy. You can operate on any of the traditional HF bands (i.e., no WARC bands) from 80 thru 10 meters. The exchange is your QSO number for that

contact i.e., the first is 001, the second 002, etc., plus your Michigan county. On CW, everyone uses the official county abbreviations from the list on the MiQP web site. Stations outside of Michigan will send their QSO number and state or province abbreviation.

Barring some sort of major propagation disturbance, you will find MiQP activity on 40M CW & SSB for the entire twelve hour contest period. This is a good band to get a mix of in-state and out-state coverage, plus it's popular with the mobile MiQP entries that move from county to county during the event. (Mobiles can be worked again when they change counties.). During the day there is usually good activity on 20M, and lesser amounts on 15M and 10M, depending on the solar cycle. Once darkness falls, there is a lot of MiQP activity on 80M.

Here's how your MiQP score is calculated: Each CW QSO is worth two QSO points while a phone QSO is worth one point. Your final score is equal to the QSO points you've accumulated multiplied by the number of multipliers (Michigan counties, non-Michigan states and Canadian provinces) you work. Multipliers are counted separately on both CW and phone. For example, if you work Washtenaw County (WASH) on both CW and phone, that's two multipliers.

As you start out in MiQP you might just want to make QSOs and have fun, but here are some suggestions to keep in mind which should increase your score. A station may be worked once on both CW and phone on each band, so try all five bands (and both CW and phone) to look for MiQP QSOs. The lower bands (80M & 40M) are usually better for in-state QSOs, and out-state QSOs out to 500 miles or so, but try the high bands (particularly 20M) to bolster your score with US

states and Canadian provinces from out west. Also, while most people probably have a preferred mode they like to operate, because state and province multipliers are counted separately on CW and phone, in MiQP it's worth the effort to spend some time on the other mode to build up the multiplier count for a good score.

When MiQP is over, you have thirty days to submit your entry in order for it to count in the final results. (Note: If you make MiQP QSOs but don't send in a log, no harm is done; the people you worked still get credit for your QSO(s) with them.) Paper logs can be sent to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. Electronic log files (ASCII text only) can be e-mailed to LOGS@miqp.org

What can you win for participating in MiQP? The Michigan winner in each majority category receives a beautiful 10 x 13 plaque, a total of eleven in all. The top single-operator score in each Michigan county making at least 50 QSOs wins a handsome certificate.

To learn more about MiQP, check out the Michigan QSO Party web site at <http://www.miqp.org>. There you will find a wealth of information including complete rules, contest forms (summary, log, and multiplier count sheets), a list of county abbreviations, past MiQP results, operating tips and links to free logging software.

WANTED: IBM SELECTRIC III
If you have an IBM Selectric III Typewriter you no longer need, call or E-mail George, W8AP!

MIQP Details

Begins April 21 16:00Z (12:00EDST)

Ends: April 22, 04:00Z (24:00 EDST)

County IDs

Here are a few of the local Michigan County Abbreviations. Others may be found within the web site noted earlier.

Genesee:	GENE
Lapeer:	LAPE
Lenawee:	LENA
Livingston:	LIVI
Macomb:	MACO
Monroe:	MONR
Oakland:	OAKL
St. Clair:	STCL
Washtenaw:	WASH

Scoring Summary

Don't forget, CW QSOs count twice as much as SSB QSOs!

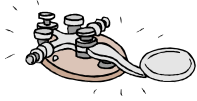
You can work the same station twice on each of the traditional Amateur Bands (80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters), once on CW and once on SSB.

Multipliers include a total of 83 Michigan Counties, 14 Canadian Provinces and 49 US States. DX only counts for QSO but no multipliers. Separate multipliers for CW and SSB QSOs. Thus it is entirely possible to have 166 Michigan County, 98 US States and 28 Canadian Provinces multipliers!

Pay careful attention for Rover Stations since they may be the only source for some of the rarer Michigan Counties. Usually they don't have the ear-splitting signals you might find elsewhere so you may have to really dig. But the extra multipliers can put your final score above the pack.

Happy hunting and good luck!

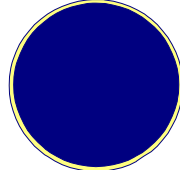
W8GF



April 2007



SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
1  Palm Sunday	2  Full Moon	3  Passover YL/YL DX CW Test	4	5  WIAW Qualifying Run	6  Good Friday	7 EA RTTY DX Test Lighthouse QSO Party MO QSO Party SP DX Contest																																																																																																			
8  Easter Sunday	9	10 YL/YL DX SSB Test	11  K6YR Qualifying Run	12	13 MT QSO Party  SEMDXA Meeting	14 GA QSO Party JA CW DX Contest Radio CW Maritime Day																																																																																																			
15	16	17  New Moon	18	19  WIAW Qualifying Run	20	21 EA QRP Test Holyland DX Test MI QSO Party Motorola QSO Party ON QSO Party YU DX Test																																																																																																			
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