



Long Path



Volume 21 Issue 9

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

June, 2004



Greetings Fellow DXer's.

I received an e-mail today from Fred, **K3ZO**, and he arrived home in fine shape.

There were some concerns we may have problems getting him to the airport with all the flooding, but other than Uli's subdivision, we encountered no problems. Once the storm drains were unplugged Uli got rid of his problem. I hope all our other members were so lucky.

I thought the meeting went very well and I would like to thank Ken, **W8LU**, and Uli, **KK8I** for their help and showing such great hospitality. Fred said he had a great time and it was good to hear his tales.

Next month is election month, so anybody wanting to run for office should notify Ken, **W8LU**, so we can get it published.

Elections take very little time so I have two presentations we can decide on at the meeting. To give you something to think about I have **3C2MV** and **8Q7LC/8Q7JG**

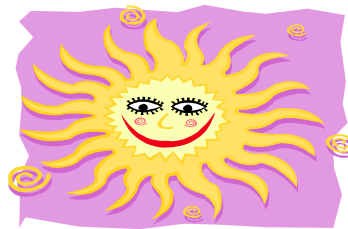
which are both in Powerpoint format. If the elections go well we might have time to show them both.

Till next month stay dry and good DX

K8SIX

Summer Time!

There will be no *Long Path* Newsletters published during the months of July and August. The next *Long Path* issue will be for the month of September, 2004. Our first *SEMDXA* meeting of the new season is scheduled for September 10, 2004. Enjoy our all-to-short Michigan summer season!



K3ZO!

Many thanks to Fred, **K3ZO** for the informative and enjoyable lecture at our May, 2004 *SEMDXA* meeting. His behind the scenes commentary about current events affecting Amateur Radio were especially interesting.

Thanks Fred!

S/*SEMDXA* Membership

Membership Dues

You may pay your 2004/2005 membership dues anytime now. *SEMDXA* membership is a great bargain at \$15.00 per season. Each of our monthly meetings during this past year featured excellent programs thanks to the efforts of club President **K8SIX** and **W8LU**. Your membership dues are used to finance these gatherings with few other expenditures thanks to multiple club member volunteers! The *Long Path* newsletter contains a membership application for your use. Please make your checks payable to *SEMDXA* and forward to Buck, **N8CQA** at your earliest convenience.

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**

VUCC Checker: S. Fleming, **K8KHZ**

CQ Checker: Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

CQ Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

Program Chairman: Vacant

LP Publisher: Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

May Minutes

Called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President **K8SIX**. Twenty-nine members and guests present. Treasurer **N8CQA**, reports a balance of \$1,146.37.

W8GF played a recording of some RF Interference noise and asked if anyone could identify it? **K8SIX**, thought it sounded like an electric wheelchair charger he once had experience with.

W8LU has been having the *Long Path* bounce when sent in batches to ARRL.NET addresses. Please give Ken your alternative address so he can get the newsletter to you.

N8LJ asked about the proposed purchase of a PA system. President **K8SIX** indicated we would vote next month on its purchase.

W8LU introduce tonight's special guest, Fred Laun, **K3ZO**. Fred is one of the world's best know DXer and has operated from many DX locations as a result of his career in the US Foreign Service as an employee of the US Information Agency. He urged *SEMDXA* members to ask questions as "nothing is off-limits".

His first assignment was to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic where he was licensed as **H18XAL** in the mid-sixties when, among other excitements, he was Officer of the Day at the US Embassy when the revolution broke out. He related an interesting story of putting his mobile rig, a Hallicrafters SR-150 in a Chevrolet Corvair, to use as the only communication for the Ambassador to talk with the US Fleet until the Marines arrived later. Other adventures involved setting up a jamming station to counteract rebel transmissions. His radio skill was put to the test when they "borrowed" a Telco Signal Generator to substitute for a missing crystal by injecting an IF frequency and

allow a 100 Mhz FM repeater to broadcast the new President's messages.

K8CC, asked about Fred's Argentina assignment. Fred replied that it was a "great job", that his boss was hundreds of miles away. He joined the local radio club and enjoyed many friendships with the local Hams. On Good Friday, 1974, he was home because the week-long religious celebration meant his office was closed. Answering a knock at the door he was confronted by a man in a police uniform who asked to see his station. Since he had just recently been asked to respond to an interference complaint he thought he might show the "cop" his station. However, when the "policeman" entered he was accompanied by two other thugs with sub-machine guns, pistols and a rope and he was to be abducted. He tried to grab one of the pistols and was shot. He awoke naked and in pain (the only blessing, according to Fred, was that he was taken before April 15 and "wouldn't have to pay income tax!". He was given a transfusion, but with the wrong blood type! He finally convinced the abductors that he was not CIA, relaying messages from Chile to the Pentagon, and that he took pride in his Ham gear, in much the same way that one of the famous Argentine race car drivers would take pride in his personal vehicle. The abductors finally released him in Cordoba City and notified authorities where to find him. One of the Surgeons who saved his life was a fellow Rotarian and many of his Ham friends stayed with him around the clock while he was in the hospital. Eventually he was moved to Panama and spent three weeks in the hospital there.

Fred's present Temple Hills, MD, station is a FT-1000MP and a Titan Amp (plus two spare Titans) and the stand-by rig is a TS-830S. On VHF he uses a FT-726R with a Thunderbolt 6N2 amp. An impressive antenna array includes several tall towers on a 260' x 180' lot

only eight miles South of the White House! His next rig may be a Ten Tec Orion.

When asked his opinion of why **VU4** and **VU7** are so rare, he did not have a definitive answer. The Andamans are a naval base and many of the high level Naval officers are Hams, but he speculated that this site was at the far end of India's nuclear test range and they did not want any stray RF creating an incident.

Thailand was another "great" assignment during 1968-1970. He was based in Northern Thailand training counter insurgents by showing movies to hill tribes. This involved hauling a projector, screen and generator up and down the mountains. He was very involved in helping to set up formal Amateur Licensing in the country and operated **HS3AL** and **HS5ABD**. When Ham Radio was "legalized", Fred became **HSØZAR**. Don Wallace, **W6AM**, asked him to give him a collect telephone call so he could be the first "6" to work him on 80M and he did! **K6KA** called **W6AM** and Don got his Zone 26 on 80M!

Fred also talked about the present **HS72B** operation which commemorates the 72nd birthday of the Queen of Thailand. They have permission to operate the WARC bands, 80M and 160M till the end of the year. If you visit SEANET in Bangkok this year you can operate it!

Fred served in Vietnam in 1971-72 in one of the least secure Provinces. His job was to advise the local Provincial Psy-ops Officer...involved a lot of beer and eating lots of fried rat and duck blood soup. His last three months were spent in Ben Hua where he was Head of Psy-ops and had a 500 Watt Hallicrafters Hurricane in his office.

In 1980-84 he was located in Columbia where his job was to arrange inter-

views with the Ambassador and the head of the DEA. Lots of the drug traffic is handled on the Ham bands, or just outside. When he questioned the DEA officers, they wanted the druggies to be left alone so they could monitor them.

When asked why he never served in the Middle East he commented that he never wanted to go there..."they all deserve each other!"

Fred is a Director for the YASME Foundation who is well endowed thanks to Lloyd and Iris Colvin who left them a medical clinic which was later sold for \$800K. They must spend \$32K per year and fund projects (not DX-peditions) for a specific purpose. The YASME Award, by the way, is still available.

Fred has been married for eighteen years to a Thai woman he met during his second tour of duty. She is the one who bought him the FT-1000MP for a birthday present.

When asked about his success in the Dayton Pile-up Competition he advised to copy what you can, "don't try to hard, and if you miss one, let it go." Skills all learned from his **HS1ABD** experience. His friend **N6AA** describes the pile-up contest as "a skill that has no real value in the real world".

He also admitted to "playing games" while he was DX...for instance, one night he would only work **OK's**, the next night only **SP's**, the next only **OH's**, etc. Many thought he must have a pipeline to those areas!

K3ZO is a treat to listen to, we are honored to have had him visit.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. to general fellowship.

AC8W, Secretary

By Goodman, W1DX, SK

Byron H. "By" Goodman, **W1DX** (ex-**W6CAL**, **W1JPE**), of East Hartford, Connecticut, died May 11 after a period of declining health. He was 93. A San Francisco native, Goodman was a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff for more than three decades, most of that time serving as a technical editor. Goodman authored and edited literally hundreds of QST articles and columns as well as other League publications, including The Handbook for Radio Amateurs.

First licensed in 1930, Goodman graduated from the University of California-Berkeley with a degree in electrical engineering. During World War II, Goodman took a leave of absence from his League duties to work for Raytheon in Boston, helping to develop their radar systems.

More K3ZO

During our dinner prior to the **SEMDXA** meeting, Fred was asked about BPL and its potential impact on ham radio as well as TV, medium and shortwave radio broadcasting. Fred's opinion was that it is a tempest in a teapot. He noted that there are three or four organizations that are proponents of BPL and that it is strictly money that motivates them.

With their limited funds, Fred indicated that it would only be a question of time before they would probably be forced to abandon their BPL quest.

Fred also noted that many large and politically powerful organizations such as the NAB have yet to be heard from on the BPL issue and that their word carries a huge amount of prestige.

Fred further noted that FCC Commission member Ms Abernathy among others

are not Engineers but Lawyers and that lawyers dominate the FCC bureaucracy at this point.

Fred indicated that, given time, the BPL issue will be resolved favorably for Amateur Radio once the political overtones are quenched and technical limitations of the concept are evaluated.

W8GF

Following item excerpted from an ARRL Bulletin dated May 26, 2004

Restructuring Amateur Radio

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell has assured US representatives Greg Walden, **W7EQI** (R-OR), and Mike Ross, **WD5DVR** (D-AR), that the Commission will act "as expeditiously as possible" on Amateur Radio restructuring. Walden and Ross wrote Powell a month ago to urge adoption of the ARRL's restructuring Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) "in its entirety" along with rules changes needed to put it into place. Powell said the League's petition was one of many.

"At this time, the Commission staff is reviewing and analyzing carefully all of the petitions, comments and proposed rule changes in this area," Powell responded May 21. "Because this matter is of great importance to you and the almost 700,000 amateur radio operators nationwide, the staff is working diligently to create a comprehensive solution to address the proposals the petitioners have submitted." The next step in the process, he said, will be to prepare a notice of proposed rule making for the Commission's consideration.

SEMDXA PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP LIST

JUNE, 2004

NO.	CALL	NO.	CALL	NO.	CALL	NO.	CALL	NO.	CALL	NO.	CALL
1	K8NA*	2	K8EJ	3	K8BTH	4	N8AVQ	5	W8EG	6	W8SYR
7	W8QFR**	8	KP2A	9	N8AJF	10	WB8RNY	11	WD8PKF	12	WB8KFG
13	N18B	14	KC8OB**	15	W8AP*	16	N8BIB	17	WD8KXN	18	W8ORW
19	W8LZV**	20	KR8V	21	N8DBZ	22	W8KPL**	23	KB8HO	24	N8AFV
25	KM8Y**	26	N8GZ	27	W8LU*	28	KK8E	29	K8ED	30	K8BVY
31	KB8LM	32	K8ZR	33	K8VJV	34	K8RWL	35	K8IA	36	K8SIA*
37	AA8G	38	WA8V	39	KB8DV	40	W8TA	41	WA8WFF	42	KX8A
43	N8CXX	44	NG8S**	45	K8SS	46	W8LJP	47	N8CPF	48	W8UMP
49	KB8IO**	50	W8MTW	51	W8PHZ	52	KA8PVS	53	N8AHA	54	KW8E
55	K8KJQ	56	KB8TE	57	W5ONL	58	W8UA*	59	W8YZ	60	KB8MR
61	WD8CRY**	62	N8DBI	63	W8JRQ	64	KQ8J	65	K8CV	66	WA8HGKX
67	K8NWD*	68	KD8VM	69	AA8NF	70	K8JM*	71	K2GAT	72	NE8I
73	NE8Z*	74	K8DD*	75	AC8W*	76	N8CQA*	77	K8MA	78	K8LJG
79	AK8Q	80	W8PBO	81	K8NLD	82	K8MSU*	83	W9CEO*	84	W8BXM**
85	K8ZZU*	86	WA8WFI	87	KE8KE	88	K8JRK	89	K8CD	90	K8FC
91	K8EQC	92	N8KF*	93	W8SFF	94	KM8R	95	N8FGH**	96	W8ERN
97	NS8J	98	NC8I	99	K8BHP	100	W8DJ	101	K8INU	102	KC8HO
103	WD8MGQ	104	K8JP	105	KB8RJ*	106	KE8MK	107	WB8G	108	N8EOA**
109	K8MDU*	110	W8SO	111	W8VR	112	WA8IWK	113	N4JQQ*	114	W8UK
115	WB8ZLG	116	K7JBQ	117	W18L	118	WF8I	119	W8URM**	120	WS8B
121	W8REN	122	DL2SCA	123	NB8Q	124	N8IAG	125	W8QNF	126	K8FZ
127	K8CC*	128	KN8S	129	KE8RE	130	KT8X*	131	K8CJ	132	K8VO
133	WB8B	134	WS8D	135	WS8I	136	KB8S	137	WV8A	138	WD8QVD
139	KD8IW	140	WA8RUJ*	141	N8JV	142	KG8F	143	N8BA	144	WB8IZM
145	KP4E	146	WA8BUJ*	147	NU8Z	148	N8DVO	149	WB8VCU	150	W8PP*
151	AA8FE	152	WY8U	153	KB8BS	154	KO9Y	155	VE3RIK	156	K8SIX*
157	K8PSV	158	N8LJ*	159	N3KOU	160	KF8SY	161	N8ZX*	162	WX3M
163	WQ8T*	164	W8QC*	165	WB8OHO**	166	W8KZM**	167	K8GT*	168	W8KX
169	K8AJK	170	W1SKU*	171	W8GF*	172	W8WWC	173	W8NB	174	K8PX
175	KA8IMZ	176	W8MR	177	W8WD	178	WY8W	179	WD8PLE	180	N8SWP
181	N8RGZ	182	N8TI	183	KG8FF	184	W8SJ*	185	WA8LCZ	186	W8RR
187	KB8LUV	188	N9AG	189	AA8R	190	WQ4I	191	KB8FXY	192	VA3RD
193	AG8L	194	W8XI	195	KF8WR	196	AA8TK	197	K8ZZ	198	W8JJ
199	VE1DX	200	K8FT*	201	W8EB	202	K8KS	203	N8FF	204	N8MOJ*
205	K8GL	206	K8MV*	207	WD8S*	208	N8KR	209	N8SNM*	210*	N8MR
211	WD8PLQ	212	K8TRF	213	N8EA	214	K8FG*	215	KC8JAY*	216	K8UP*
217	N8KIE*	218	K8ESQ*	219	K8BKM	220	K8KHZ*	221	AA8GK	222	K8CW*
223	LZ4GU*	224	K8ZE*	225	N8HZM*	226	KK9I*	227	N8OZ*		

* Indicates current member

** Indicates Silent Key (SK)

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: _____

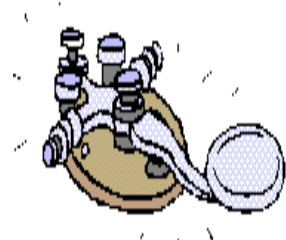
E-mail address: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEMDXA

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


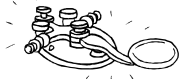

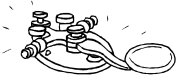





***Leon Switzer, Treasurer
427 Jeffrey Avenue
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073***

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



June 2004

SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
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