



Long Path



Volume 23 Issue 1

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

September, 2005



Greetings Fellow DXers!

I always hate to see the September meeting come as I know the end of summer is soon to follow. I hope everybody enjoyed it and I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting which will be held at the Troy Elks. I have been assured by their management that we will maintain the same deal as we have in the past. If I forget remind me but I would like to discuss this at the next meeting.

As most of you have heard by now, the VU4 group stirred up a hornets nest, and it appears as though they are going to open VU4 and most likely VU7 to amateur radio. In fact Bernie sent out a report stating that even foreign ops will be able to get a license so let's hope it all works out. I could certainly use VU7 and a few band countries would be nice too. I also read a report that P5 is coming back on the air, and they are in hopes of opening up P5 to more operators. I know a few in the club missed the last one, so this might be your big chance. Good Luck.

Our September meeting will be by Dr. Rick (**NE8Z**) and I am going to let Sean, **K8KHZ**, give the details in his report. Sean, as you know, has volunteered to be our Program Director so we will be adding another report each

month and he will give the details on the following months presentation. This is without a doubt the toughest job in the club so let's give Sean all the support we can. Good Luck Sean and I know you will do well. That about does it gang. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting Sept 8th at the Troy Elks.

K8SIX,
SEMDXA President

September Program

Greeting to all from your program director Sean Fleming **K8KHZ**. I hope that we have a good year for presentations. From being a member I have watched numerous videos from many places. I love videos. What makes them even better is when you know the person who went and they are telling you all about it in person. That is what makes our club a small family.

So, this September, **NE8Z** will bring us an interesting video on **HCJB**, the great and famous organization in Ecuador. Their website is <http://www.hcjb.org/>. In 2003 the Ecuadorian station stopped promoting Christianity to North America in English and started to only concentrate on South America and it's Spanish listeners. I am looking forward to seeing those large towers and transmitters. If you have any ideas for a presentation do not hesitate to send myself an e-mail at k8khz@yahoo.com or call myself at 248-691-1130.

K8KHZ

DUES ARE DUE

Please make your peace with our Treasurer **N8CQA** as soon as you are able. A convenient form is included with this issue of the *Long Path*. Keep in mind that your dues are what fuel our Club's outstanding meeting programs. Very few Clubs provide the quality programs that our Program Directors have been able to furnish over the years!

SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

Vice-president: Ken Schang, **W8LU**

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Program Chair: Sean Fleming, **K8KHZ**

LP Publisher: Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

June Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President **K8SIX**. Twenty-four members and guests present. President Al explained that our regular meeting spot, the Troy-Clawson Elks, is closed for renovation, but should be available for the September meeting.

Congratulations to **K8SIX** for his standings in the DeSoto Challenge. Our guest speaker tonight was Dave, **K3LP**, and the topic of his discussion is "How Do I Plan For And Participate As A Team Member In A DXpedition?" His first recommendation? **BE PREPARED!** He cited the recent **VY9SS** trip where equipment was lost in landing and one of the members fell from a tower and broke his leg.

Further, Dave gave a long list of needed items that include passport/visa, operating license, equipment lists, food supplies, radio/antennas and tools and supplies. Costs to be considered are shipping costs, departure costs, customs fees, carry on luggage fees, and electricity fees.

The list of Dave's DX trips includes rare and not-so-rare countries. Familiar calls include **A61AF & A61AJ**, **5H3LP**, **A4/K3LP**, **J6R**, **FS5UQ**, **VP5LP**, **P40DC**, **T33C**, **3D2DC**, **GM/AA6DC**, **8P9LP**, and **T30LP**. Dave related anecdotes for each; some good some bad but all added to his experience.

Stress can be caused by lack of resources, no teamwork, lack of necessary funds, no back-up equipment. His answer to combat these stressors? Be prepared, don't take risks, take lots of money, and get the wife's approval. Even more important, ask if it is OK to come home!

A fun look at DXpeditioning from a great speaker.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. to general fellowship.

AC8W
Secretary

Goodbye Morse?

*With the recent swirling controversy concerning the FCC's proposal to eliminate Morse Code competency from Amateur Radio licensing requirements, the next Director and Vice-Director of the Great Lakes Division could tip the ARRL's position in this critical issue one way or the other. With elections coming up, it is important that we know the position of the candidates on these important issues. Noted below are statements from each of the challengers. Since **KB6NU**, running for Vice-Director, provided this information, he leads off followed by **K8IT** running for the Director position. Lastly, are some comments by blogger **W8RCM**.*

"As I've mentioned before, I am running for Great Lakes Division Vice Director in 2005. Here is my 300-word candidate's statement.

"Amateur radio and the ARRL face a number of difficult problems. Two of the most urgent are declining membership (currently less than 25% of licensed amateur radio operators are ARRL members) and diminishing clout in Washington, but there are others. I think most of our problems stem not from the number of licensees but from the number of active radio amateurs.

"While there have not been any scientific surveys, some estimate that up 50% of all licensees are inactive. For whatever reason, these folks lost interest and are amateur radio operators in name only. This is a shame, if you ask me. Inactive hams don't show up for public service events or work CW or experiment with circuits or send letters to their Congressmen and Congresswomen.

"How can we encourage amateur radio operators to be more active? One thing we can do is develop classes that will teach people not only what they need to know to pass a test, but what they need to know to be successful amateur radio operators. These include how to solder, how to make voltage and current measurements, and how to make simple antennas.

"Better support for clubs is also needed. Clubs are where the action is. Good clubs bring hams into the hobby and turn them into active amateur radio operators. Bad clubs turn people away from amateur radio and foster bad stereotypes about amateur radio and amateur radio operators.

"And finally, we need to start getting youth into amateur radio again. We must show them how technically challenging ham radio can be, but even more importantly, how much fun it can be. I'm running for Great Lakes Division Vice Director so that I can work on these issues. With your support, we can make ham radio better."

KB6NU

Candidate Statement

Neil Sablatzky, **K8IT** is running for Great Lakes Division Director. Here is his statement.

"A Novice operator at age 14, I enjoyed Amateur Radio Public Service, experimentation, and operating most modes. I have provided public service operations for many events, including: New York City Marathon, MS-150 Bike Tours, Michigan UP-200 Dog Sled Races, and many Skywarn, ARES, RACES, and Storm Recovery Nets. I am a member of the ARRL High Speed Multi Media Working Group, serve as a local AEC, and enjoy training amateurs on new subjects.

After 31+ years of Amateur Radio, (Extra, Age 46), our hobby is facing declining interest, we are in danger of losing frequency bandwidth, facing antenna restrictions, and losing public acceptance of Amateur Radio.

“The Future.

“First, we must elect active, progressive thinking and technically competent leadership. Second, we must evaluate every mode, frequency allocation, and operating procedure. We need to adjust for the future, but not at another mode's expense. While a CW test is not needed, given a mirror or flashlight, what other mode can replace CW?

“Third, we must not abandon the new Amateur. We must address the availability of training, offered to new amateurs, once they pass the test. Fourth, we need youth. We must communicate that Amateur Radio is fun, group conversations are common place, and students with licenses can earn the required community public service needed for high school graduation. We must boost the number of significant college scholarship grants by teaming with industry to market Amateur Radio, as a skill set development opportunity. Fifth, the ARRL must become the voice of the amateur. This requires that the Board of Directors listen to its members, and not sanction causes such as Regulation by Bandwidth if the result limits operation and experimentation.”

K8IT

W8RCM - Comments:

"First, we must elect active, progressive thinking and technically competent leadership. I couldn't agree with you more. Active HAM operators in these positions are paramount. You

say progressive thinking yet you mention CW, hmmm? How progressive is that? Has everything that can be invented been invented? This can be a highly technical and complicated hobby. Being technically inclined is good.

"Second, we must evaluate every mode, frequency allocation, and operating procedure. We need to adjust for the future, but not at another mode's expense. Hmmm, yet another hint about CW, am I right? CW as a MODE isn't going away. Those who choose to use CW as their mode of communication can do so as long as they live. While a CW test is not needed, given a mirror or flashlight, what other mode can replace CW? Hmm let's see: BPSK31, QPSK31, FSK31, RTTY, Packet (HF/VHF), Pactor (RX only), AMTOR (FEC), MFSK, Hellschreiber, Throb, Fax (RX only), SSTV, MT63. Let it go. Third, we must not abandon the new Amateur. We must address the availability of training, offered to new amateurs, once they pass the test.

"I personally do not see abandonment as any issue. Getting the numbers of licensed operator might be. I would have become a HAM long ago had I have received a notice that the CW requirement had been dropped, but nothing heard. There is no lack of information for self-improvement, from books, to videos and mentors.

"Fourth, we need youth. We must communicate that Amateur Radio is fun, group conversations are common place, and students with licenses can earn the required community public service needed for high school graduation. We must boost the number of significant college scholarship grants by teaming with industry to market Amateur Radio, as a skill set development opportunity.

"Youth is good thing. I am sure every active HAM has a time or two has either tried or has got a family member to be-

come a HAM. I don't believe in FORCED PUBLIC SERVICE. I let people know how much fun I have with this hobby. I even got the neighbor to get his ticket. As far as the scholarships go, this is without question a noble task. Fifth, the ARRL must become the voice of the amateur. This requires that the Board of Directors listen to its members, and not sanction causes such as Regulation by Bandwidth if the result limits operation and experimentation. I'm sorry; I was under the impression that the ARRL is a voice for the amateur? "

W8RCM

Editors Note: Don't confuse this W8RCM with the former W8RCM. Richard W. Kowitz held this call for many years and was an Extra Class licensee residing in Dearborn. QRZ.com notes the new holder of W8RCM with a Technician Class License. No tears are shed for Amateur Radio Operator wannabes sans CW operating skills! Right?

KA2HTV/P5

Wild anticipation best describes this event and little else! Although information is sketchy at this point, few if any QSOs were actually handed out. NR1R of Reading MA provided the only USA spot indicating SSB operation on 14195.0 kHz. Other Packet Cluster notes dripped with sarcasm. KA2HTV is now back in New York and is hopeful that further operations from the DPRNK are not only possible but likely. Only time will tell.

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	N8CQA	N8CQA@ARRL.NET
AD4UU	AD4VU@COMCAST.NET	N8HZM	MLS1@COMCAST.NET
K8BB	K8BB@COMCAST.NET	N8JV	N8JV@COMCAST.NET
K8CC	K8CC@COMCAST.NET	K8KF	N/A
*K8CW	K8CW@ARRL.NET	N8KIE	N8KIE@AOL.COM
K8DD	K8DD@ARRL.NET	N8LJ	N8LJ@USOL.COM
K8ESQ	K8ESQ@AOL.COM	N8MOJ	N8MOJ1@AOL.COM
K8FT	JIM.KUHNS@IEEE.ORG	N8MR	N8MR@ARRL.NET
K8GT	K8GT@ARRL.NET	N8OZ	N8OZ@ARRL.NET
K8IY	DFWOOD@OAKLANDCC.EDU	N8QGC	N8QGC@ARRL.NET
K8JM	K8JM@USOL.COM	N8SHZ	N8SHZ@COMCAST.NET
K8KHZ	K8KHZ@K8KHZ.COM	N8SNM	BNOWAK@SPEAKEASY.NET
K8MSU	K8MSU@JUNO.COM	N8ZX	N8ZX@TDS.NET
*K8NA	K8NA@ARRL.NET	NE8I	NE8I@ARRL.NET
K8NWD	K8NWD@ARRL.NET	NE8Z	NE8Z@YAHOO.NET
K8SIA	K8SIA@ARRL.NET	W1SKU	W1SKU@ARRL.NET
K8SIX	K8SIX@COMCAST.NET	W4CEO	SCAT42@EARTHLINK.NET
K8UP	JOHN@FLEMING-PHOTO.COM	W8AP	W8AP@GEOGBH@NETZEROL.COM
K8UT	K8UT@ARRL.NET	W8GF	W8GF@COMCAST.COM
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	W8UA	W8UA@MYVINE.COM
KC8PKY	KC8OBH@AOL.COM	WA8BIJ	WA8BIJ@ARRL.NET
KK8I	DL2HBX@DARC.DE	WD8S	WD8S@ARRL.NET
KP4E	KP4E@AMSAT.ORG	WQ8T	WQ8T@ARRL.NET
KQ8D	ROGER49201@YAHOO.COM	WZ8K	WZ8K@MIQRP.NET
KT8X	KT8X@COMCAST.NET		
LZ4GU	N/A		
N4JQQ	STRUTLEDGE@OIL.NET		

*Indicates perpetual membership. 57 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 Buck, N8CQA *SEMDXA* Treasurer. If you have paid your 2005 dues and your call is not indicated, check with Buck 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

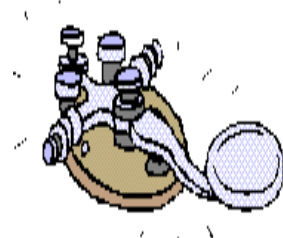
Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:

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!



September 2005

SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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