



Long Path



September Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:55 PM by President **K8SIX**. Twenty-six members and guests present. Membership introduction by call, name and QTH.

K8NA reported that **K8OLG** has equipment and a tower for sale. Also, **W8PHZ** is conducting an estate sale in Southfield. Contact either for more details. A reminder that **K8SIX** is a CQ awards field checker.

Tonight's program features our own Dr. Rick Dorsch **NE8Z** and a travelogue of a recent trip to Spain, Gibraltar and Morocco along with XYL Maria, **HC8MM**.

On short notice Rick and Maria boarded a plane for Barcelona, rented a car and traveled south enjoying the sights and sounds of EA7 land and a visit with **EA7JB**. Then on to Gibraltar, more sight seeing and a stop to visit with **ZB2EO** where Rick did some operating as **ZB2/NE8Z**.

An exciting hydroplane ride across the Straits of Gibraltar took the intrepid travelers to **EA9**, Ceuta where they were hosted by **EA9BO**, Antonio and **EA9PB**, Javier. They even made a quick journey into CN2, Morocco for some "power" rug shopping as well as picking up some DXCC sand for **W5KNE** and DXCC rocks for **KA9AJ**. A short operation as **EA9/NE8Z** put another operating spot under Rick's belt.

After a return ride on the hydroplane

they spent some more time visiting and seeing the sights before boarding the plane home. Nice Videos and an interesting tale!

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM to general fellowship.

AC8W, Secretary

W4BW SK

Former FCC official Prose Walker, **W4BW** passed away August 8th following a brief illness. Prose was 92. Licensed since the 1920s and an ARRL life member, he was head of the FCC Amateur and Citizens Division from 1971 until 1975. Prose was instrumental in landing the WARC Bands (12, 17 and 30 meters) for amateur use. He worked for a time at Collins Radio and the National Association of Broadcasters.

Prose was available to chat with anyone - usually on 20 meter CW. Unpretentious and a true gentleman, he will be missed.



VUCC Checker!

Al Baily, **K8SIX** has been designated as an official QSL card checker for the ARRL's popular VHF/UHF Century Club Award. Making your appointment with Al for card verification will save time and money. As **SEMDXA** President, DX QSL Manager, CQ WAZ card checker and now VUCC checker,

it's hard to see where Al will have much time for DXing for himself!

IOTA HONOR ROLL

Several **SEMDXA** members are noted on the IOTA (Islands On The Air) Honor Roll.

<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Score</u>
WD8MGQ	21	960
K8NA	93	853
K8SIX	101	845
N8JV	131	813



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**



President's Report

Since our last meeting I have learned a lot about the responsibilities of being president. One thing in particular is I need to adjourn the meeting, but we got so tied up talking to Dr. Rick that it completely slipped my mind. I guess I am used to being a spectator and not the head guru. Hi—Hi....

Dr. Rick put on a great presentation and it wasn't three days later I received a card from **ZB3A** with a nice photo of Gibraltar. The photo showed the water collection system Dr. Rick spoke about as well as the Airport built on land from the hollowed out rock.

Thank you Dr. Rick and if anybody else within the club has any ideas of who we can get for a presentation by all means drop me a line and one of us will look into it. I have been speaking with **AHØW** recently and I am trying to get him to stop by on one of his many business trips but thus far no luck. Most of you probably remember him from their Midway DXpedition but he has been on many.

We have a nice presentation planned for the October meeting and you may want to get in touch with some of your friends and ask them if they would like to attend. We have **WT8S**, Paul, and **K8PYD**, Leo, doing a presentation on their Pratas Island DXpedition. At the end of their presentation Paul would like to speak about his candidacy for ARRL Director.

After speaking with a few club members it was decided that to be fair the other candidates should be invited as well and I agree. With that in mind I sent a email to **KI4LA**, Gary, and also to **K8JE**, Jim, and asked if they would like to attend. Unfortunately Gary cannot due to prior commitments

Jim said there is a 98% chance he will make it. Incidentally Gary is our current Director. We are going to limit their speech to 10 minutes each so as to be fair and also not to bore the members.

So lets all get behind them and wish them well by attending our October meeting and by all means don't forget to bring a friend. I'll see you there and this time I promise I will adjourn the meeting properly.

K8SIX, President

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### Membership Dues

Your club membership fees are due and payable at the October meeting. Alternatively, you may send your dues to our Treasurer **N8CQA** via US Mail. Keep in mind that your dues provide funding for our meeting programs. Please pay promptly if you have not already done so. Fill out the attached form completely and accurately and be sure to include your e-mail address. The only way you can receive and continue to receive the *Long Path* is via e-mail. If you change your e-mail address for some reason, you must notify Ken, **W8LU** to insure continued receipt of the *Long Path*.

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Flying Horse

As was mentioned in the last issue of the *Long Path*, the Flying Horse CD ROM will cease publication with the January 2003 version (available in mid-November). The demand could be very high so all interested members should get their orders in early. Duane Heise, **AA6EE** offers this item at a substantial discount (\$38.95 including shipping) as well as a number of ARRL Publications. Check out his web site at: www.radiodan.com/aa6ee/

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### TV2 QRM

TV Channel Two QRM continues to be minimal so it is safe to say the problem is fixed. Exactly what has happened to cure this problem remains a mystery. The story -unofficial- seems to be centered around a problem with their solid-state power amplifier circuitry. Station engineers switched to the backup vacuum tube amplifier and noted an immediate reduction in spurious emissions. The story goes on to say that a passband filter was added to the solid-state amplifier system which is where we are today.

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C6AFP Villa Sold

Received the following from Steve, **N4JQQ** via **W8LU**.

After more than fifteen years of providing a QTH for visiting ops in the Bahamas, the **C6APF** Villa has been sold. I owned the villa with my brothers and they decided they wanted to sell out. I was afraid to take on the additional debt in these uncertain financial times so we sold it to the children of our immediate neighbor in the villa complex. That is the bad news.

The good news is that the new owner is keeping the Cushcraft vertical and will rent to hams. You just have to bring your own rig, etc. The **C6AFP** beacon on 50.062 MHz will be relocated in the near future. The **C6AFP** repeater, 145.210 MHz continues to operate. Several *SEMDXA* members have visited the **C6AFP** Villa to include **KR8V** and **W8LU**. Thanks for your support.

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## Gibraltar

Some interesting information about Gibraltar as reported to **W8GF** from **ZB2FK**.

**Geography:** Gibraltar is situated close to the southern most point of the European mainland at the meeting point of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Bordering Spain and known colloquially as "The Rock", it has an area of seven square kilometers and rises to a height of approximately 400 meters. The City of Gibraltar occupies most of the lower slopes on the western side, facing across the Bay of Gibraltar. On clear days there are spectacular views of North Africa; the Moroccan coast lying just twenty Kilometers away across the Strait of Gibraltar.

**Geology:** Gibraltar is a mass of hard limestone which arose from the sea during the shifting of the continental plates. It first appeared some 100 kilometers to the east of its present situation, and was gradually pushed along to where it is now. Before settling down it gave a twisting roll and part of it turned completely over. This has been established by the discovery that the uppermost layers in the northern part of Gibraltar are older than the layers below.

It also contains many caves, the most famous of which, St Michael's, is illuminated and open to the public. Evidence of varying sea levels during its existence can be seen in the terracing of the southern and eastern parts of the Rock.

**History:** At one time or another Gibraltar has been a port of call for all of the major Mediterranean peoples, including the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Greeks and the Romans. Gibraltar was known to the Romans as Mons Calpe, though the origin of that name remains a mystery. The Greeks considered that Gibraltar and the facing Moroccan mountain Mons Abyla

were the Pillars of Hercules that marked the entrance to the end of the world.

Many prehistoric remains have been found in Gibraltar's caves. A few years before the discovery of the famous remains in Germany's Neanderthal Valley, the skeleton of a woman from the same period was found in Gibraltar but was not, unfortunately, publicized to the same extent as Neanderthal Man.

Gibraltar was uninhabited for many centuries until it was taken by Moroccan Arabs 711 AD as part of the invasion of southern Spain. The Moors built the original town and port of Gibraltar and constructed fortifications. Most their castle is still standing, and one part of it is Gibraltar's tiny prison.

The leader of the Moorish invaders was called Tarik. The Rock became known as "Tarik's Mountain", or Gib-el-Tarik. Over the years this was corrupted to "Gibraltar". In 1704 British forces took possession of Gibraltar, and in 1713 Spain ceded Gibraltar to Britain in Perpetuity under the Treaty of Utrecht.

**Population:** The Gibraltarians owe their origins to settlers who came in the wake of the British invasion, mainly Genoese, Italian, Maltese, Portuguese, Jewish, Spanish and, of course, soldiers and civilians from the British Isles.

Modern times have seen the addition of Moroccan workers, as well as Hindus, Americans, and non-Gibraltarians living and/or working on the Rock. This ethnic mix has been exceptionally harmonious, Racial strife has never been known in Gibraltar, indeed the Rock has a remarkably low crime rate, and must be one of the safest places in the world in which to live.

**Language:** In general, Gibraltarians are bilingual in English and Spanish; a knowledge of either of these is sufficient to feel at home in Gibraltar. Many people find it fascinating to listen in to Gi-

braltarian conversations which flow effortlessly from one language to another, often in the middle of the same sentence.

**Currency:** Gibraltar's official currency is the Pound Sterling. There is also a local Gibraltar Pound which circulates freely and is exactly at par with the Pound Sterling.

**Climate:** The Rock's weather is moderate, rarely excessively hot and never excessively cold. Average daytime temperatures are around 27° C (80° F) in August and about 14° C (57° F) in January. Rain is infrequent but heavy, and usually falls during the period October-March.

**Religion:** The predominant religion is Roman Catholic, and there is a fine Catholic Cathedral in Main Street which was a Mosque in Arab times. There is also a Protestant Cathedral, as well as synagogues, and a small mosque. A new mosque is currently in the construction stage and the Hindu community is about to build its own temple.

**Law:** Gibraltar law is based on that of the United Kingdom, having a similar Magistrates and Jury system. Gibraltar's Royal Police Force is organized on British lines and wears the same uniform as their United Kingdom counterparts.

**Politics:** Although a British Crown colony, with a Governor, Gibraltar is in practice and autonomous city state within the EEC. Gibraltar has its own elected government formed from the majority party in the 15-strong House of Assembly, who are empowered to pass laws, know as Ordinances. The present ruling party is in its second four-year term of office, having been re-elected in February 2000 with an overwhelming majority.

**Transport & Communications:**

Gibraltar has its own airport which is pleasant and straightforward, and has direct regular flights to Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester. Other international airports within easy reach are Malaga (two-hours' driving time), Seville (two-hours 30 minutes), and Jerez (two hours). There is also a regular ferry to Tangiers. Gibraltar has one of the world's most sophisticated telephone and telecommunications systems including easy access to the internet.

**Customs:** There is no VAT (Value Added Tax) in Gibraltar. Most imported goods are subject to duty, usually at the rate of 12%, but certain categories, such as food and books, are zero-rated for duty and there is a very low rate on cigarettes, alcohol and petrol.

**Taxation:** As a modern finance center Gibraltar has a lot to offer, its tax laws making it attractive both to off-shore companies and to individuals. Full details of these laws and their relative benefits may be obtained from any of the many international accounting practices established in Gibraltar. It is also important to note that Gibraltar maintains strict confidentiality at all taxation levels; it has no agreement whatsoever with any other tax authority. There is no Capital Gains Tax in Gibraltar.

**Sport & Leisure:** In Gibraltar itself there are facilities and associations for all types of water sports, tennis, squash, fishing, badminton, hockey and other athletics. There is also an international casino, a cinema, and a very popular weekly Government Lottery with substantial prizes. Gibraltar is a bird-watcher's and historian's paradise. Other sports within 20 to 60 minutes reach of Gibraltar of Gibraltar are wind-surfing, golf, horse riding, hunting and polo. Top class skiing is also available, the Sierra Nevada lying just four hours' drive away. There are ten Public Holidays per annum.

**Shopping:** Gibraltar is a prime shop-

ping area, regularly attracting buyers of all nationalities from Spain, Portugal and Morocco. Virtually every type of shopper is catered for in abundance; there are familiar foodstuffs from the several supermarkets, a glittering array of electronic goods from Japan, fashions from London, tax-free car sales for export, or just a prescription from one of the efficient well-stocked chemists (Pharmacies). Many famous stores and banks are represented on the Rock.

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JT QSLs

This item from **K4ZW** via **W3UR's DX Bulletin**.

All QSL replies for cards hand carried to Mongolia (**JT1CO**, **JT1BG**, **JT1BV** and **JT1CC**) were mailed from the USA when I returned. Cards for other JT stations that I hand carried were given to **JT1BG**. Baatar will deliver them to the respective operators.

I took the opportunity to speak with several of the guys concerning problems people are having with QSL cards from Mongolia. To a person, they complain about cards getting lost in the mail. They say the best method is to send cards via Japan or China.

My opinion is that they do care are about answering QSLs. A number of them have printed some very nice cards. Others have printed several different styles of cards for those who have had multiple QSOs. I don't believe they would go through this trouble if they did not care about QSLing. Those I spoke to with to will continue doing their own cards instead of engaging the services of a QSL manager.

After tossing around a few ideas for improving the situation, it was decided that the following method will be tried; I will act as a collection point for cards. All requests must include a self-

addressed envelope and either one **NEW IRC** or one USA green stamp. I will gather these cards and ship them via registered mail or DHL periodically - say every couple of months depending upon volume. The probable recipient will be **JT1BG** who will make distribution on the other end. Cards for the USA will be mailed using the normal mail circuit in Mongolia. Of course this does not *guarantee* that you will receive a response but it should greatly improve your chances.

What I am asking in return is a small donation to cover premium transportation. Obviously I don't intend to and will not benefit financially. This is strictly voluntary and all USA DXers can use the normal mail route if they prefer. Consider this an experiment. If it works and there is sufficient interest we will keep it going. Otherwise, if it doesn't work, at least we gave it a try!

Ken Claerbout, **K4ZW**



October SEMDXA Meeting

The October meeting will take place on October 11, 2002. Our program will be provided by **WT8S** and **K8PYD**. See the **SEMDXA** website for additional detail. As in the recent past, the meeting will be held at the Clawson-Troy Elks Club located at 1451 Big Beaver Road (16 Mile Road). Off-menu-dinning will be available beginning at 5:30 PM together with a cash bar serving your favorite beverage.

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

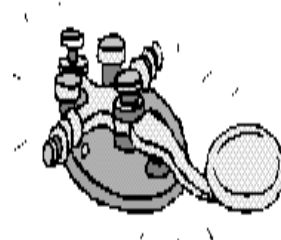
Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:

Leon Switzer, Treasurer


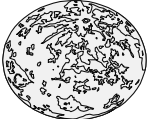
427 Jeffrey Avenue

Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

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



October 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 W1AW QUALIFYING RUN	5 TARA PSK31 TEST OCEANIA SSB TEST CA QSO PARTY QCWA QSO PARTY RSGB 10/15 SSB TEST
6 NEW MOON 	7	8	9 K6YR WEST COAST QUALIFYING RUN YLRL CW QSO PARTY	10	11	12 WORKED ALL GERMANY 10-10 SPRINT OCEANIA CW TEST PA QSO PARTY FISTS CW SPRINT
13 NA SPRINT RTTY TEST	14 A. A. F. BIRTHDAY (1899)	15	16 FULL MOON 	17 W1AW QUALIFYING RUN	18	19 JARTS RTTY TEST QRP ARCI PARTY ASIA-PAC CW SPRINT RSGB 10/15 CW TEST ILLINOIS QSO PARTY
20 KINROSS (UP) SWAP	21	22	23	24 UNITED NATIONS DAY	25	26 CQ WW DX SSB TEST ARRL EME TEST 10-10 CW TEST
27 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS USECA (WARREN) SWAP	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN 