



Long Path



Volume 23 Issue 3

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

November, 2005



President's Report

Greetings DX Group!

Well we had a great meeting in October and I would like to thank **N6JRL** and **N6JE** for their excellent presentation on the up and coming **3Y0X**. Certainly is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to put on a DX-pedition of this magnitude so I hope all of you bought a shirt or helped in some way. I am looking forward to the follow up presentation next year to see how things went and to see what Murphy contributes. Let's hope nothing.

Well thanks to **K8NA**, I have my RD-1800 rotor installed and my 40 meter beam re-aligned. It only took us 7.5 hours and three trips up the tower. I am ready for winter now other than some fine tuning on the 80/160 vertical. My body after that long on the tower felt 20 years older. I think it is time to start looking into a crank up with less beams.

I still have a pair of clip on sunglasses left at the September meeting someone lost so let me know as I hate to throw them away. Before I close I would like to thank **N8SNM**, for taking over the

duties of Treasurer. As you know **N8CQA**, is ill and Brad has offered to take over 'till Buck returns or until the next election, whichever comes first. Speaking of the Treasurer it is time for **DUES** so please take a minute to send Brad your dues so we can continue to have presentations the caliber of **3Y0X**. This month's meeting will be by one of our own as Sean, **K8KHZ**, will be doing a presentation on LOTW and how to use the program. See his column for details.

Thanks for all the support. 73 to all and enjoy the good DX on the Top Bands.

K8SIX

Dues are Due!

If you have not already made amends with our new *Treasurer*, **Brad Nowak**, **N8SNM**, please do so soon. At \$20.00, **SEMDXA** membership is a real bargain and paying up promptly will keep you in the good graces of Brad.

November Program

Greeting readers. This next month's meeting will be about the **LOTW** (Logbook of the World). Yours truly will be the speaker on the subject of **LOTW**. Please bring your most interesting or most rare QSL card to the meeting to share with fellow members. In December there will be no meeting.

January will be Hank **K8DD** and Stan **AC8W** bringing us again another DX-pedition to the cold climes of Canada. Hope to see you at the meeting!

K8KHZ

December!

The Long Path will not be published in December but will return in January, 2006.

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**

October Minutes

Called to order at 7:55 p.m. by President **K8SIX**. Thirty-two members and guests present. President Al passed around the roster of current members for members to check for valid information. We especially need a current email address.

Al also reported that Buck, **N8CQA**, is home under hospice care. Brad, **N8SNM**, has agreed to take over the Treasurer spot til Buck gets back, or until elections are held.

Neil, **K8IT**, candidate for Great Lakes Division Director, spoke to the club expressing his view. Be sure to send your ballot in. Hank, **K8DD**, passed around a card for Buck. Shaun, **K8KHZ**, introduced Don, **N6JRL** who told us of his part in the upcoming **3Y0X** Peter I DXpedition early next year. Helping Don with the Power-Point presentation and video was Jim, **N8JE**.

Don is retired USMC and has been licensed since 1963. He's been on several DX-peditions including **VP2E**, **J68** and **T15N**. His Marine Corp training included cold weather survival which will be put to good use in the upcoming adventure.

Peter I Island is owned by Norway and is truly one of the most remote spots on earth. In fact, Don tells us that more people have been on the moon than have been to Peter I. It was discovered and claimed by the famous explorer Bellinghausen on January 10, 1821. The only way to get on the rock and ice these days is by helicopter.

Located about 450 km from McMurdo Sound Antarctica, it's a tough spot to visit. The Ham group will fly to Punta Arenas, Chile and then to King George Island where they will board a Russian icebreaker, the **Dap Mares**, and sail six days to Peter I.

Plans for this DX-pedition have been in the works for three years and plans to go last year were cancelled after contract negotiations between the helicopter and icebreaker broke down.

Currently there are twenty members on the team and they recently met in Atlanta to meet, greet and practice setting up tents and equipment. Everything to survive while on the island must be transported in and then packed out by copter. Twenty-two tons of equipment and were packed and shipped to Chile.

Team members include **K0IR**, **K4UEE**, **KA6KV**, **N2WB**, **N4GRN**, **PA5M**, **N6OX**, **K9SG**, **W8MV**, **A3AI**, **W0RUN**, **HB9BX**, **F2JU**, **K4SV**, **FM5CD** and **N6JRL**. Two non-Hams include Ross a video expert and George, the world's most traveled man (in the Guinness Book of Records for visiting the most places on earth! He's paying his fee to land by helicopter and then fly back to the icebreaker).

Cost to participate is about \$16,000 per person. Don sold a few t-shirts to help with his costs. The video of the 1994 **3Y0PI** DX-pedition was shown to further illustrate the upcoming trip. Look for them with a special Chilean call while /MM and later on Peter I as **3Y0X**. You may check out the web site at www.peterone.com.

Acting Treasurer Brad reports \$540.37 in the treasury.

President Al reminded the members that we expressed interest last year in funding future DX-peditions as long as the budget would allow. Motion by **N8KF**, second by **K8NWD**, to donate \$50 to the **3Y0X** effort.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m. to general fellowship.

AC8W, Secretary

FT1000D Owners

W8AP tells us of a recent exercise in frustration with his FT1000D. For no obvious reason, performance of the radio suddenly took a nose-dive. In transmit mode, he could load it up on CW to 200 Watts out, which is the manufacturer's specification. But in receive mode, there was no signal when 500 Hz bandwidth was selected. On SSB, speech was distorted and it was difficult to tune in any SSB signals.

There were a number of accessories hooked onto the FT1000D; an SP-5 speaker (modified with a Timewave DSP), and ICE pre-amp for 160 and 80, and an MFJ memory keyer. George disconnected the accessories one at a time, to no avail.

George suspected a bad 500 Hz filter. (out of warranty, of course!) Before shipping the FT1000D to Yaesu's shop in California, he decided to write a letter to Chip Margelli, **K7JA** asking for suggestions. A phone call resulted.

With the FT1000D in operation, Chip started to walk George through a few tests. His first question: "What is the position of the bandwidth control?" Answer: "It is at 12 o'clock." At Skip's direction, George turned it to full clockwise. Problem cured!

And what do you think is silk-screened on the FT1000D's panel, next to that knob? At 5 o'clock are the words "WIDTH NORMAL"!

Very likely, we all can tell similar stories about our modern-day Amateur equipment. And it gets worse as additional features are added to the latest toys from the shops of Yaesu, Icom and Kenwood.

222.060 mHz Beacon

The 222 mHz beacon is temporarily off the air prior to putting it at its permanent home with the antenna atop KA8WYN's 140' tower located in Warren. This is a ten Watt beacon using a Squalo-style antenna.

Space Available!

The Long Path frequently has space available for your use in advertising excess Amateur Radio gear that you might want to turn into cash. You may make arrangements by contacting the Editor: W8GF@comcast.net

Fall Back!

Don't forget to adjust your clocks as Daylight Savings Time expires. Failing to do so can screw up many of our computer logging programs!

KP1/KP5 Status

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The House Committee on Resources today approved H.R. 1183, the bill that, if passed into law, would reopen Navassa (KP1 /IOTA NA-098) and Desecheo Island (KP5 / IOTA NA-095) islands to limited public access, and potentially renewed Amateur Radio operations from those islands.

H.R. 1183 was among eleven bills listed on a Unanimous Consent Agreement under which the Committee merely asked for objections to each bill before consenting to approval. No objections were voiced in regard to H. R. 1183.

KP1-5 Project Director Mike Thomas NA5U said H.R. 1183 was approved

because scores of Amateur Radio operators wrote and called their Congressmen. "Hams taking two or three minutes to write or call their Congressmen moved this bill to approval," he said. Thomas said the hard work begins now. "Even if you've already sent an e-mail, a fax, a letter or called on the phone, doing it again will be immensely helpful in moving the bill to the House floor for a vote," said Thomas.

A legal brief available at www.fcc.gov addresses the applicable law and facts in the Desecheo and Navassa situation in detail. "If you read the legal brief, I guarantee that you will want to call or write your Congressman right away," Thomas said.

Thomas said Congress must hear from hams again now that the Committee on Resources has approved H.R. 1183. "If we don't send a new message to Congress to move the bill to the House floor, the Fish and Wildlife Service will keep Desecheo and Navassa closed for many years to come," he said.

Editor's note:

The old ladies in white tennis shoes are out in force on this issue! Groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, Wilderness Society and National Wildlife Refuge Association are doing their best to kill this bill presently in the Congress. If this bill fails to pass, you can forget about KP1 and KP5 being back on the air during our lifetime.

DX Prospects

The recent Kure Island fracas (K7C) was an outstanding effort put on by 12 very dedicated Amateurs from several nations. The QSO total was over 50,000 with about 27,000 via CW and 21,000 via SSB. Zone 25 was the most productive Zone with a total of 20,500 Qs. This was followed by 6100 in Zone 3, 5200 in Zone 4 and 4100 in Zone 5. European

Zone 14 produced about 3200 Qs followed by 3400 in Zone 15 and 2200 in Zone 16.

The CW total was about 27,000 with SSB making up about 21,000. Asia in general provided nearly half of the total Qs with 23,400 followed by North America at 16,000 and Europe with 9000.

Propagation was generally poor to many parts of the world. The strongest signals noted by your Editor were on the lower frequencies. On the last day of their DX-pedition, 160 signals were outstanding for nearly three hours. This group used vertical antennas. Some commentators thought that Yagi's might have produced better results on the higher bands. But, all in all, a good job by this group!

Up coming DX includes KH5 in early November, R1M during the CQ WW CW DX Contest and FH (F6AUS) beginning around November 9 with a stay through the early weeks of December. Serge will be using a special call sign **TX0P** and will be active in the CQ WW Test. Of special interest will be **J45A** operating from SV5 during the CQ CW Contest. He will be active on either 80 or 160..... This should draw some real crowds!

W8GF

Morse?

The deadline for commenting on the FCC "Morse Code" proceedings is October 31. Nearly 3,000 comments have been noted so far. As you will recall, this proposal essentially eliminates the 5-WPM Morse Code requirement for all classes of Amateur Licenses in the United States. Check this site for more details: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/> In the proceeding field, enter **05-235**.

UB5RR

Roman Stepanenko is in hot water again! He has been charged with credit card fraud in the US District Court in Northern California. He is accused of possessing, buying, selling and trafficking in credit card information garnered from individuals around the world. His Internet Service known as "ICQ" was used in a complex system to accumulate personal information. Mr. Stepanenko used the ICQ screen name of "Boa".

He is accused of establishing other Web Sites including www.boafactory.com where he bought and sold credit card data. A long list of defrauded merchants from around the world is included in the grand jury indictment. Locations such as Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, the UAR, Mexico, Malaysia, Great Britain, France as well as the United States were noted.

Obviously, those that used these bogus credit cards are in trouble also. No mention was noted in the Stepanenko indictment but it follows that others will be prosecuted down the road.

Roman has had his share of fun at our expense. The most notable and recent was the bogus **P5RS7** activity. He and others were actually operating from the Region of the USSR that borders on North Korea. This information, fortunately, was disclosed before QSL cards were accredited for the DXCC awards program.

The **XY0RR** activity, an earlier DX-pedition, was later determined to be bogus but long after QSLs were accepted for Myanmar (Burma) credit. Due to the complexity of deleting DXCC credit, the ARRL suggested that DXers work this Country again but on the honor system. Actual credit was not effected otherwise.

The present *Long Path* Editor was taken in by the sincerity of Roman and his group and a substantial amount of money was provided for the **XY0RR** operation. Later, he responded to those contributors by passing out copper coins commemorating this DX-pedition. The obverse side depicted the call sign **XY0RR** with the reverse side bearing the call sign of the contributor.

Roman led and participated in several other DX-peditions including a few in the Pacific Ocean area. Legitimacy of these activities has not been an issue; at least no one has complained so far.

Roman appeared to be a friendly and honest guy that one would enjoy sitting with and sharing a beer or two. He also was a terrific CW operator as many Ukrainian Amateurs tend to be. One could draw many parallels with other infamous US Amateur Radio operators. It does not take a rocket scientist to come up with names and call signs.

It is a sorry situation and one can only hope and pray that Roman can successfully defend himself against these charges. Such a talent is rare and it would be a pity see him end up in the slammer.

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.COM
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.NET
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 Brad, **N8SNM** *SEMDXA* Treasurer. If you have paid your 2005/2006 dues and your call is not indicated, check with Brad 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: _____

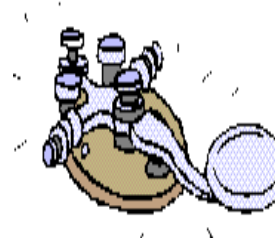
E-mail address: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEMDXA

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




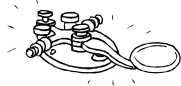


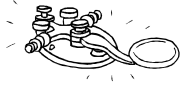

***Brad Nowak, Treasurer
704 South Cass Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48328***

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



November 2005

SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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