



# Long Path



Volume 24 Issue 3

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

November, 2006



## President's Report

Greeting *SEMDXA* Members!

I would first like to thank Bernie, **W3UR**, for putting on a very nice presentation on the latest **VU4** operation, as well as giving us some heads up on the up and coming **VU7** operation to take place this December. Not too bad of a turnout either considering the Tigers were playing what turned out to be the next to the final game of the conference series.

So both Bernie and the Tigers did a fantastic job. Sean, **K8KHZ**, has the next meeting planned and I will let him explain what it will be in his report. As I said at the October meeting I will not be at the November meeting as it is close to deer hunting time and I plan on being up north that week as well as the following week scoping out the situation.

For January we have **NE8Z** doing a presentation on his current trip and then in February we tentatively have **N6JRL** coming up to do a presentation on the **3Y0X** DX-pedition he was a member of. We are also working on getting Dave, **K3LP** to come up to do two presentations with hopes it coincides with his work schedule. So all in all things are looking good in the presentation de-

partment although we are always open to suggestions.

Don't forget these presentations cost money and that money comes from our dues. If you have not yet paid your dues the application is on [www.semdxa.org](http://www.semdxa.org), and you can send them to Brad, **N8SNM**, or bring it to the next meeting. As always we appreciate your continued support.

Well gang I will not see most of you now until next year so enjoy the holidays. Good luck with the **VU7** and any other DX you may be chasing.

Till then 73,

**K8SIX**, *SEMDXA* President

## December, 2006

As usual, there will be no *SEMDXA* gathering during the month of December. Also, there will be no *Long Path* published for the month of December. The next official meeting will be on Friday, January 12, 2007. The *Long Path* will resume publication and a January issue available to those members that have taken care of their dues obligation.

## October Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:19 PM by our President **K8SIX**. Twenty-eight members and guests present including the evenings speaker Bernie McClenny ,

Editor and Publisher of the DX bulletins *Weekly DX* and *The Daily DX*. Our Secretary, **AC8W** was unable to attend the meeting but **N8KF** volunteered to provide the meeting minutes. (our thanks to Bill!)

Our Treasurer **N8SNM** reported the club's bank balance as \$981.40. Member **NE8I** mentioned up-coming six meter events. **K8DD** is back from The Isle of Man and mentioned the great beer that was available there. Also noted was that member **N8CQA** is

## 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**

back in Beaumont Hospital and in room #8425.

President **K8SIX** noted that he would not be at the November club gathering since that meeting falls on November 10 and that he would be deer hunting. Our Vice-president **W8LU** will fill in for Al.

**K8SIX** noted that a KT34 Tribander is for sale and available since the original purchaser decided against installing it and gave it to the club for disposal. The club keeps the sale price. It was noted that \$100.00 would probably be the asking price.

**W3UR** took the floor and provided a series of still scenes and described his recent (April, 2006) visit to the Andaman/Nicobar Islands where his group signed **VU4AN/VU3OHA**. Bernie noted the many other Amateurs and their various call signs. He also mentioned another planned DX-pedition to the Lakshadweep Islands (**VU7**). This Island group stands #2 behind North Korea as the most sought after DXCC entity. Bernie noted that he will not be able to take part in this epic do to the uncertainty of dates and his work commitments. The call sign most often mentioned is **VU7LD** with QSLs going to the world's champion QSL manager, **W3HNK**. Actual starting date is not official but could be during the early weeks of December, 2006 or January 2007. Length of this operation could be anywhere from ten days to four weeks.

Many thanks to Bernie for allocating his precious time for the enjoyment of our membership!

Formal meeting closed at 8:13 PM but general fellowship continued well beyond that time.

**N8KF**  
Acting Secretary

## Dues are Due

**If you have not updated your dues obligation, please do so at your earliest convenience. You may either pay the annual \$20.00 fee directly to Brad our Treasurer at the November meeting or via USPS using the renewal coupon and address located at the end of this issue of the *Long Path*. Failure to pay up will result in your deletion from the *Long Path* circulation list. Also, keep in mind that membership dues are the main source of funding that feeds our excellent monthly programs. No other DX Club near our size is able to pull this coup off! How's it accomplished? Dedicated club officers doing their job -pure and simple. Open up your wallets and check books and keep our Treasury plush.**

## Clip Lead Magic

Some years back -probably around 1961 or so - an elderly couple lived a few doors away from our home where my wife Joann and I were raising our three crumb snatchers. At the time I was employed by a small company located in Highland Park that designed and manufactured custom vehicular instrumentation equipment. The elderly wife knocked on our door one evening and wanted to know if I could repair her radio. She went on to say that she had noted my radio antennas and assumed that I had some knowledge about radios.

For the next ten minutes she explained that their radio was their only source of entertainment and that they were hoping I could fix it up! How could I say no? She went home and returned this time with her husband and this table radio bearing the Emerson label. He explained that he had taken the radio to the local repair shop but was told it was not repairable.

The next day I took the radio to work thinking that I could borrow one of the technicians work benches during lunch hour and get this thing working again. The work bench had first-class instruments including an HP Signal Generator, a Boonton VTVM, Tektronix 'Scope with an assortment of plus-ins and a General Radio Impedance Bridge among other things. What more would I need with this array of top-notch instruments sitting on the work bench?

The radio was typical of the era.... often called the All American Five. The tube lineup went something like this; 12SA7 Converter, 12SK7 Intermediate Frequency Amplifier, 12SQ7 Audio Detector/Amplifier, 50L6 Audio Power Amplifier and 35Z5 Rectifier.

After removing the radio from its wooden case I hooked up the AC power line to an isolation transformer that happened to be on the bench. Since the chassis of these so-called AC/DC sets was hot, it was a good idea to use power line isolation back at that time and even more so today

The first thing I noticed was that all of the tubes lit but the pilot lamp did not. Also, there was very weak audio output while tuning a few of the more high-powered AM stations. A good place to look at the AVC (Automatic Volume Control) voltage is the top of the volume control which I did with the Boonton VTVM. Since there was very little AVC present, I knew which direction to go from there. Before going further, I thought it would be easy to change the #47 pilot lamp and at least get that part fixed and working again. But, a new lamp did not fix the problem.

About that time the newly hired General Manager of the firm, a fellow named Al Weiss, happened by and asked what I was doing. After telling

him about the problem, including the pilot lamp puzzle, the first thing he did was shut down all of the test equipment which I had powered up! He asked for a clip lead which I managed to find hanging along side the work bench. Now, he really had my attention.

Al took the test lead and within a minute or two claimed that he had diagnosed the problem. He indicated that he would bring in the part for me on the next day. I still had no idea what the problem was but the following day -again during the lunch hour- Al appeared with an IF transformer in hand and a 35Z5 rectifier tube. He brushed me aside and removed the defective transformer with what I considered radical surgery. Taking a pair of dykes, he cut the cluster of wires going to the four lugs and ripped the IF can out in mere seconds.

I remember asking him how he knew what wires went where and he proceeded to recite the color code, blue wire to the 12SK7 plate connection, red wire to B+, green wire to the 12SQ7 diode pin and the black wire to the AVC line. After replacing the 35Z5 rectifier he explained that a tap in the filament circuit was probably open and that had caused the lamp not to light. I was astonished at the speed of which he changed the vacuum tube and re-soldered the clump of wires. Total elapsed time, less than ten minutes.

After completing this work, Al started to walk away when I asked him about testing the radio now that it had been serviced. He gave me condescending smile and said something like "that's a dumb question."

A little later after re-installing it in it's cabinet, I carried the little radio back to my office and tried it out. It worked great pulling in all kinds of AM radio stations and the pilot lamp became

visual again.

My neighbor was very pleasantly surprised when the radio was returned that evening. Her husband even noticed that the pilot lamp was now working. What were the charges he asked..... "No charge sir" was the answer

Several weeks later, I learned that Mr. Weiss, our new fearless leader, owned a radio and TV repair service called G&G Television which had a store front on Hamilton near Six Mile Road in Highland Park. I also learned that he frequently worked at the repair bench and specialized in fixing the real toughies that happened by. He was able to do more with a mere clip lead than most serviceman could with benches full of top of the line equipment.

Lesson learned!

#### W8GF

#### VU7/Lakshadweep

The good news is that an operation is planned to put VU7 on the air for the first time in over a dozen years. The bad news is that it may or may not happen this December or January of next year. A number of hoops must be negotiated by Indian Amateurs before this can happen. Even if it does, VU Hams are doing this one alone and if past performance can be used as a yardstick, don't expect too much!

Lakshadweep, or before known as The Laccadives, is in CQ Zone 22 laying approximately 200 miles West of the Southwest coast of the India mainland (10.5 degrees North, 73 East). Regular path beam heading from Southeast Michigan is about 28 degrees. Long Path heading is moot since any opening on that path seems unlikely according to

W6EL's propagation study. Two propagation studies are presented here; one for the mid-December period and a second for early January, 2007.

There have been indications that a second team may attempt to operate from VU7 which will include an international collection of DX operators. This operation is most likely to take place in January of next year. In any event, mid-winter propagation to this area of the world to North America will be marginal at best since sunspot activity is extremely low resulting in greatly reduced MUFs. Twenty meters is still your best bet at this stage of cycle 23. Those among us that are endowed with gain antennas on 40 Meters will also have a shot but keep in mind that India has a maximum power limit of 50 puny Watts.

Good luck on this one!

#### W8GF

#### Some notes on this Island Group follow:

*Lakshadweep consists of 12 coral atolls, 3 coral reefs, 5 banks and numerous islets under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court. The capital of this territory is Kavaratti. Calm lagoon waters, tall green coconut palms and exotic under-water views of marine life make this a haven for tourists. Open sea game fishing for Tuna, Rays and Flying fish is legendary.*

*The people are of mixed Arab and Hindu descent and mostly Muslims in belief.*

*Agriculture is the mainstay of their economy. Bananas, nuts and vegetables are the staples. Boat-building and fishing industries are in the developmental stage.*

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Paid up **SEMDXA** members in alphabetical order:

<u>CALL SIGN</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>CALL SIGN</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
<b>AC8W</b>	AC8W@COMCAST.NET	<b>N4JQQ</b>	CROWNHAVEN@BELLSOUTH.NET
<b>AD4UU</b>	AD4VU@COMCAST.NET	<b>N8CQA</b>	N8CQA@ARRL.NET
<b>K8BB</b>	K8BB@COMCAST.NET	<b>N8HZM</b>	MLS1@COMCAST.NET
<b>K8CC</b>	K8CC@COMCAST.NET	<b>N8JV</b>	N8JV@COMCAST.NET
<b>*K8CW</b>	K8CW@ARRL.NET	<b>N8KF</b>	N8KF@ARRL.NET
<b>K8DD</b>	K8DD@K8DD.COM	<b>N8KIE</b>	N8KIE@AOL.COM
<b>K8ESQ</b>	K8ESQ@SBCGLOBAL.NET	<b>N8LJ</b>	N8LJ@USOL.COM
<b>K8FT</b>	JIM.KUHNS@IEEE.ORG	<b>N8MOJ</b>	N8MOJ1@AOL.COM
<b>K8GT</b>	K8GT@ARRL.NET	<b>N8MR</b>	N8MR@ARRL.NET
<b>K8IY</b>	DFWOOD@OAKLANDCC.EDU	<b>N8OZ</b>	N8OZ@ARRL.NET
<b>K8JM</b>	K8JM@USOL.COM	<b>N8QGC</b>	N8QGC@ARRL.NET
<b>K8KHZ</b>	K8KHZ@K8KHZ.COM	<b>N8SHZ</b>	N8SHZ@COMCAST.NET
<b>K8MSU</b>	K8MSU@JUNO.COM	<b>N8SNM</b>	BNOWAK@SPEAKEASY.NET
<b>*K8NA</b>	K8NA@WIDOPENWEST.COM	<b>N8ZX</b>	N8ZX@TDS.NET
<b>K8NWD</b>	K8NWD@COMCAST.NET	<b>NE8I</b>	NE8I@ARRL.NET
<b>K8SIA</b>	K8SIA@ARRL.NET	<b>NE8Z</b>	NE8Z@YAHOO.COM
<b>K8SIX</b>	K8SIX@COMCAST.NET	<b>W1SKU</b>	W1SKU@ARRL.NET
<b>K8UP</b>	JOHN@FLEMING-PHOTO.COM	<b>W4CEO</b>	SCAT42@EARTHLINK.NET
<b>K8UT</b>	K8UT@ARRL.NET	<b>W8AP</b>	BEAGOLDSTONE@MAC.COM
<b>K8VFB</b>	K8VFB@ARRL.NET	<b>W8GF</b>	W8GF@AOL.COM
<b>K8ZE</b>	K8ZE@CHARTER.NET	<b>W8LU</b>	W8LU@W8LU.NET
<b>K8ZZU</b>	K8ZZU@SBCGLOBAL.NET	<b>W8PP</b>	W8PP@COMCAST.NET
<b>KC8JAY</b>	KC8JAY@ARRL.NET	<b>W8SJ</b>	W8SJ@AOL.COM
<b>KC8OBH</b>	KC8OBH@AOL.COM	<b>W8SYR</b>	JDBUHL@AOL.COM
<b>KC8PKY</b>	KC8PKY2004@YAHOO.COM	<b>W8UA</b>	W8UA@MYVINE.COM
<b>KK8I</b>	DL2HBX@DARC.DE	<b>WA8BIJ</b>	WA8BIJ@ARRL.NET
<b>KP4E</b>	KP4E@AMSAT.ORG	<b>WD8S</b>	WD8S@ARRL.NET
<b>KQ8D</b>	ROGER49201@YAHOO.COM	<b>WQ8T</b>	WQ8T@ARRL.NET
<b>KT8X</b>	KT8X@PRODIGY.NET	<b>WZ8K</b>	WZ8K.SEMDXA@MIQRP.NET
<b>K8YTO</b>	K8YTO@ARRL.NET		
<b>LZ4GU</b>	LZ4GU@YAHOO.COM		

\*Indicates perpetual membership. 60 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 236 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**

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# 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***

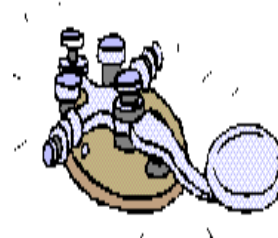
***Make payment at next SEMDXA meeting or mail with remittance to:***

***Brad Nowak, Treasurer***

***4665 Melanie Lane***


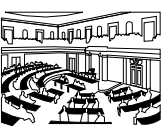
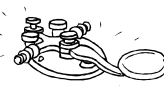

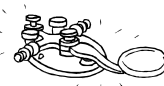

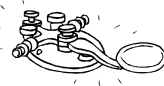
***White Lake, Michigan 48383***

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



# November 2006

## SEMDXA Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>West Coast Qualifying Run</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>ARRL Sweepstakes SSB LZ DX Test RSGB 160 Test</p>																																																	
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W6ELProp Short-Path Prediction for 12/15/2006

TERMINAL A: 42.29 N 83.00 W w8gf Sunrise/Set: 1256/2158 UTC Bearing to B: 28.6 deg  
 TERMINAL B: 10.50 N 72.80 E Laccadive Is. Sunrise/Set: 0122/1246 UTC Bearing to A: 338.9 deg  
 SSN: 12.1 Flux: 75.0 K: 2 THIS IS A POLAR PATH Path Length: 13648 km

SIGNAL LEVELS IN dB ABOVE 0.5 µV

UTC	MUF	3.6 MHz	7.1 MHz	14.1 MHz	21.2 MHz	28.3 MHz
0000	6.6	36 A	31 C			
0030	7.0	36 A	31 C			
0100	7.0	37 A	31 C			
0130	7.1	32 A	30 C			
0200	8.2	19 A	28 A			
0230	8.5	12 A	19 B			
0300	8.9	-1 A	14 A			
0330	9.2		9 A			
0400	9.6		4 A			
0430	10.1		-1 A			
0500	11.0			18 D		
0530	11.6					
0600	11.5					
0630	11.5					
0700	11.4					
0730	11.1					
0800	10.1					
0830	9.1					
0900	8.4					
0930	8.0					
1000	7.9					
1030	7.6					
1100	6.9					
1130	6.9					
1200	7.7					
1230	8.3		15 C			
1300	8.6		18 A			
1330	9.6	-1 A	20 A			
1400	11.2	-2 A	19 A			
1430	12.7	-6 A	17 A	23 D		
1500	13.8		16 A	23 C		
1530	14.8	-7 A	15 A	23 B		
1600	15.7	-9 A	7 A	22 A		
1630	16.5	-4 A	4 A	22 A		
1700	16.6	-4 A	12 A	22 A		
1730	16.5	-3 A	12 A	22 A		
1800	15.8	-2 A	13 A	23 A		
1830	15.7	1 A	14 A	23 A		
1900	15.3	-3 A	15 A	23 B		
1930	14.5	6 A	17 A	23 B		
2000	12.8	10 A	24 A	23 D		
2030	11.4	15 A	26 A			
2100	10.4	21 A	28 A			
2130	9.6	25 A	29 A			
2200	9.0	34 A	30 A			
2230	8.3	37 A	31 A			
2300	7.7	37 A	31 B			
2330	7.2	37 B	31 B			

Availabilities A: 75 - 100% B: 50 - 75% C: 25 - 50% D: 1 - 25%  
 Signal levels suppressed if below -10 dB or if predicted availability is zero

W6ELProp Short-Path Prediction for 01/10/2007

TERMINAL A: 42.29 N 83.00 W w8gf Sunrise/Set: 1303/2215 UTC Bearing to B: 28.6 deg  
 TERMINAL B: 10.50 N 72.80 E Laccadive Is. Sunrise/Set: 0133/1259 UTC Bearing to A: 338.9 deg  
 SSN: 11.9 Flux: 75.0 K: 2 THIS IS A POLAR PATH Path Length: 13648 km

SIGNAL LEVELS IN dB ABOVE 0.5 µV

UTC	MUF	3.6 MHz	7.1 MHz	14.1 MHz	21.2 MHz	28.3 MHz
0000	6.8	36 A	31 C			
0030	6.9	36 A	31 C			
0100	7.1	36 A	31 B			
0130	7.1	34 A	30 C			
0200	8.0	22 A	29 A			
0230	8.4	7 A	26 A			
0300	8.6	2 A	15 B			
0330	8.9		10 A			
0400	9.3		5 A			
0430	9.8		-1 A			
0500	10.9			18 D		
0530	11.7					
0600	11.6					
0630	11.6					
0700	11.5					
0730	11.4					
0800	10.6					
0830	9.4					
0900	8.8					
0930	8.3					
1000	8.2					
1030	8.0					
1100	7.2					
1130	6.9					
1200	7.9					
1230	8.4		8 D			
1300	8.6		15 A			
1330	9.5		13 A			
1400	11.0	-6 A	18 A			
1430	12.6	-8 A	16 A	23 D		
1500	13.7		15 A	23 C		
1530	14.7		13 A	22 B		
1600	15.6		13 A	22 A		
1630	16.5		5 A	22 A		
1700	16.7	-8 A	5 A	22 A		
1730	16.7	-7 A	1 A	22 A		
1800	16.2	-6 A	11 A	22 A		
1830	16.0	-4 A	12 A	22 A		
1900	15.7	-1 A	13 A	23 A		
1930	15.1	-4 A	15 A	23 B		
2000	13.5	6 A	17 A	23 C		
2030	12.0	11 A	25 A	23 D		
2100	11.0	17 A	27 A			
2130	10.2	22 A	28 A			
2200	9.6	31 A	30 A			
2230	9.1	36 A	31 A			
2300	8.5	37 A	31 A			
2330	7.8	37 A	31 B			

Availabilities A: 75 - 100% B: 50 - 75% C: 25 - 50% D: 1 - 25%  
 Signal levels suppressed if below -10 dB or if predicted availability is zero