



The Long Path

Volume 18, Issue 1

February 2001

Official Newsletter of the Southeast Michigan DX Association (SEMDXA)

SEMDXA IS !

Ted Pauck, K8NA

All True Blue DXers know that DX IS! True Blue DXers in Southeast Michigan know that SEMDXA IS!

SEMDXA was QRX for the past two years. The last SEMDXA meeting was in January, 1999. The next SEMDXA meeting is February, 2001. **SEMDXA is alive, SEMDXA IS!**

SEMDXA meetings are more than just a club meeting. SEMDXA is an association of DXers and Contesters. Most of us already belong to a regular Radio Club. SEMDXA meetings are special and memorable to all. The meetings usually contain very little business. The normal format is meeting with your Friends and new DX acquaintances, enjoying a fine dinner and a few drinks. Afterwards, a very short business meeting. Then, the highlight of the evening, the DX program. In the past, as will be in SEMDXA's future, big time programs, featuring DXers that have recently been out on major DXpeditions. Meetings also feature Contest operations, contest stations, contest techniques.



I know I have really missed being able to attend SEMDXA meetings. I have been contacted by many many DXers and Contesters over the past year, asking when SEMDXA is going to meet again. The time has come, the time is now. Take advantage of what we can have again.

I have been appointed as Acting President for the remainder of the year, until the next general elections. I am looking forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

DX IS! ... SEMDXA IS!

73, de Ted, **K8NA**

February Meeting Planned

Now that the DX season and good band conditions are upon us again, one's interest begins to peak and more time is being spent in front of the ole dial tuning the bands. Ten meters is booming and DX-peditions are abundant. Rumors of rare ones are in the air once again (written before the recent announcement about the canceled P5 operation – darn). It's a fun time to be a DX'er.

All is well in DX land, but our local DX community is in need of a tune up. No, there is no immediate solution for the occasional propagation phenomenon that we 'suffering 8's' must endure. The left and right coasts will remain the walls of RF that they are; besides, it's a gud excuse for not being able to crack that 80 meter pileup. We cannot control Mother Nature or the DX gods that we blame, but we can impact the DX conditions and activities that add so much enjoyment to our hobby when we are outside of the shack. SEMDXA, the Southeast Michigan DX Association, is about to hit the bands again after a brief period of silence.

February 9, 2001 is the date and the location, at least for this meeting, will be at the **new** Royal Oak Elks Club. As usual, fellowship and cocktails will begin at 1800 – 1830 with dinner being served around 1930 – 2000. (See insert below for specific details and directions.) Following dinner, a reorganization meeting will be held. SEMDXA's last official slate of elected officers, along with some volunteers to fill open board positions, will preside through the remainder of this meeting year and a new slate will be elected in June. Our program will feature the recent DX-pedition and contest operation to Pierre-Miquelon (FP) by Hank, **K8DD**, Stan, **AC8W** and Ken, **N8KR**.

It's hard to imagine that SEMDXA will have been QRT for over 2 years by the time we next meet. Our last official meeting was on January 8, 1999 at the Troy-Clawson Elks Club. Only three were present that night: Ken, **W8LU**, Buck, **N8CQA** and Gary, **KR8V**.

Ironically, these same three, along with Ted, **K8NA** met on Dec. 19, 2000 to plan the SEMDXA comeback. Many others have also expressed similar interest about reviving SEMDXA and all agreed that now was the time to act.

Pass the word and clear your slate. A huge turnout would immediately put us on the road to recovery. Our meeting room at the new Royal Oak Elks Club will accommodate up to 100 guests. See you in February.

73, de Gary, **KR8V**

Meeting Location and Dinner Menu Info

The next meeting of the **Southeast Michigan DX Association** will be held at the **NEW** Royal Oak Elks Club, 2401 E. 4th St., Royal Oak, MI. Phone 248.544.3560.

Located on the corner of **4th and Stephenson Hwy.**, which is the service drive for I75 at that point. (4th. Street dead ends at Stephenson Hwy.) **Directions as follows:**

From Flint: I-75 S. to 12 Mile W. to Stephenson Hwy S. to 4th St. W. **From the East:** I-696 to I-75 N. to 12 Mile W. to Stephenson Hwy. S. to 4th St. W. **From the West:** I-696 to Main St./Woodward N., to 4th St. E., to the East end. **From the South:** I-75 N., to 12 Mile W., to Stephenson Hwy. S., to 4th St. W..

Menu:

Buffet dinner consisting of Garden Tossed Salad, Relish Tray, Herb Baked Chicken, Roast Beef with Gravy, Red Skin Potatoes, Green Bean Almondine, Rolls & Butter, Coffee and Tea. Cost – \$15.50 per person. Cash bar.



Postal Changes

The postage rates for domestic and international will go up effective January 7, 2001. The rates I have confirmed are as follows:

Postcards – Stay at 20 cents

Letters

- 1 oz domestic letter - 34 cents additional ounces- 21 cents each
- 1 lb priority mail - \$3.50
- 2 lbs priority mail - \$3.95

International Airmail

- Postcard to Canada & Mexico - 50 cents
- Postcard to rest of world - 70 cents
- 1 ounce to Canada & Mexico - 60 cents
- 1 ounce to other countries - 80 cents

Notice that the basic rate is now 1 ounce, whereas the old rate for .5 oz was 60 cents. One QSL will now cost you 20 cents more, but 6 QSLs will cost 20 cents less than before!

I have not been able to confirm the new rate for IRCs, nor the new exchange rate for IRCs (what they can be turned in for), but my guess is that the exchange rate for IRCs will increase to the 80 cent stamp level.

If anyone has a particular rate they are interested in, drop me a line and I will get the info. I will pass on the new IRC rate and exchange rate when I get them confirmed.

Dennis NB1B
USPS Postmaster

The Southeast Michigan DX Association (SEMDXA) meets monthly at the Royal Oak Elks Club, 2401 E. 4th. St., Royal Oak, MI. Dinner meetings are held the second Friday of each month beginning at 6:00 – 6:30 PM. No meetings are held in the months of July, August and December.

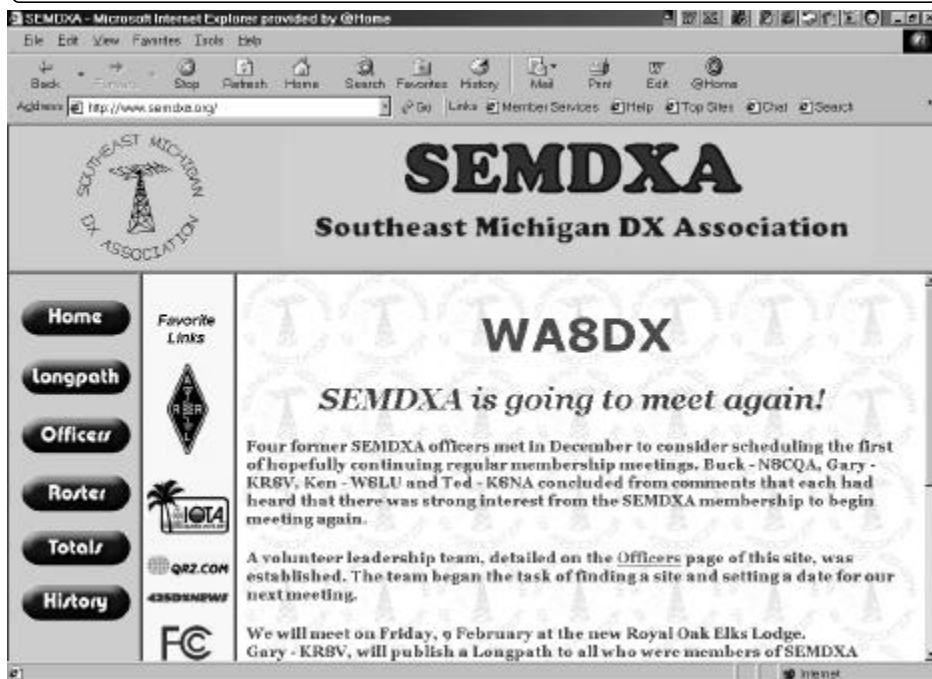
Reservations are required. Please contact the club secretary, Stan Arnett, AC8W at 810.364.6674, on the PacketCluster @ K8DD, or via e-mail at sarnett@bwdl.lib.mi.us.

All members, guests and DX'ers are invited to enjoy the fellowship!

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

W8LU Unveils New Members Site and Services (www.semdxa.org)

New SEMDXA Website



Ken Schang, **W8LU**, has spent much time and effort recently in updating the design and services offered on the SEMDXA Homepage. Visit the page at www.semdxa.org and see for yourself. Ken would be interested in your comments and / or suggestions.

Ken has promised a first rate site geared toward the needs of SEMDXA members. Presently under construction is a SEMDXA History page (need club historian type or other interested member to give Ken the details) along with a forms page that

would provide member signup and application forms. A HTML version of the Long Path will also be available.

Ken has also proposed the idea of a personal member designed homepage at the site. Additionally, we may all soon have the ability to maintain a 'semdxa.org' personal e-mail address on W8LU's mail server. Thanks to Ken for his work on the webpage and efforts in getting SEMDXA up and running again. Visit the site and stay tuned for details.

SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS (2000-2001)

- President: **Ted Pauck, K8NA** – k8na@home.com
- Vice-President: **Hank Kohl, K8DD** – k8dd@contesting.com
- Treasurer: **Buck Switzer, N8CQA** – n8cqa@tir.com
- Secretary: **Stan Arnett, AC8W** – sarnett@bwdl.lib.mi.us
- Awards Chairman: **Gary Rutledge, KR8V** – kr8v@home.com
- Program Chairman: **Gary Rutledge, KR8V** – kr8v@home.com
- Director: Open



Club Dues for 2000-2001 Meeting Year



The last official SEMDXA meeting was January 8, 1999 – midway through the 1998-1999 meeting season. For all members who paid their \$15 dues for that year, consider yourself paid up for the balance of the 2000-2001 year (ends June 2001).

For those who did not pay their dues for the 1998-1999, you will be able to settle up in two ways: \$8.00 will pay your membership through the end of the 2000-2001 year; or \$21.00 will extend your membership through the end of the 2001-2002 meeting year (a \$2.00 savings). Our treasury definitely needs help!

Please contact our Club Treasurer Buck, **N8CQA** for details.

Year 2000 DXCC Announcements

DXCC Desk, Feb. 2, 2000 – The ARRL DXCC Desk announces a new, enhanced DXCC Card Checking program, which was approved by the ARRL Board of Directors at their January 2000 board meeting in Memphis. This new program will allow DXCC members to have their cards checked by local card checkers without the necessity of mailing cards to ARRL Headquarters.

Under the new program, DXCC Card Checkers will be able to check all awards except 160 meter DXCC, and all QSLs from any current DXCC Entity. This will apply to both new awards and endorsements. QSOs made up to ten years prior to the current year will be eligible for checking in the field, while older cards and Deleted Entities may still be sent to ARRL HQ.

The current DXCC Field Checking program will end on March 31, 2000, with the new program beginning on April 1, 2000. Reappointment of DXCC Card Checkers under new criteria will be necessary. Nominations may be made by Section Managers and ARRL affiliated DX Specialty Clubs of at least 25 members and whose primary interest is DX.

DXCC, June 16, 2000 – DXCC is pleased to announce the addition of a 15 meter single band DXCC award. Beginning June 1, 2000, DXCC printouts have been set to reflect credits on 15 meters. The start date for the new 15 meter DXCC award will be July 1, 2000. 15 Meter DXCC certificates will be dated but not numbered. Deleted entities do not count towards this award. Those who have an active 5 Band DXCC which was processed prior to DXCC computerization and do not have 100 entities in the computer (on 15 meters) will be allowed to submit enough credits on that band to bring the computerized record to the first 100 needed for this award with no per QSO fee. Simply include postage and the award fee. The award fee is \$10. Please note your 5 Band DXCC award number and original issue date on the application form in the block specified.

If you do not know what credits you have on 15 meters, you should contact DXCC for an updated report, prior to submitting further credits. This will help both you and DXCC in that it will avoid duplicates and additional

costs, since QSL costs over the limits noted in DXCC Rule #15 are \$0.15 per QSO. If you have web access and can handle ADOBE (.pdf) files, contact DXCC at dxcc@arrl.org for a copy of your record. If you do not have web access, please send a note to DXCC along with \$1.50 for postage or an SASE with \$1.50 in postage. If you have not submitted since the later portion of 1991, your records are not in the computer, and an SASE with valid postage is required for a hard copy.

For more information on these or other DXCC related programs and awards, contact Bill Moore, NC1L at the DXCC Desk, ARRL Headquarters, Newington, CT.


 The logo consists of the letters "DX IS" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a dark blue rectangular background. The "D" and "X" are larger and more prominent than the "I" and "S".

Award Checker Nominations Process

a) DXCC Card Checkers must be ARRL members who have a DXCC award endorsed for at least 150 entities;

(b) To become a DXCC Card Checker an applicant must be nominated by:

i) ARRL Section Manager, or;

ii) ARRL affiliated DX Club (A DX club is an ARRL affiliated club with at least 25 members who are DXCC members and which has, as its primary interest, DX. If there are any questions regarding the validity of a DX club, the issue shall be determined by the Division Director where the DX club is located.) A person does not have to be a member of the DX club to be nominated;

(c) Must be personally known to the DX club or Section Manager nominating them;

(d) DXCC Card Checkers are approved by the Director of the ARRL Division in which they reside and appointed by the Membership Services Manager;

(e) DXCC Card Checker appointments must be renewed every 2 years and renewal is determined by performance as determined by the DXCC Desk.

NOTE:

Each Section Manager is allowed to nominate only one Card Checker. If that checker resigns the Section Manager may nominate a replacement. Each Affiliated DX Club may nominate only one Card Checker. If that checker resigns the club may nominate a replacement.

Additional information:

- Must be willing to serve at reasonable times and places including, at least, one ARRL convention per year;
- Must have e-mail and internet capability and maintain their current status with the DXCC Desk;
- Must notify the DXCC Desk of any changes in their personal address and telephone information;
- Must submit DXCC applications, themselves, to DXCC within 2 work days after completion;
- ARRL will not honor claims for cards handled by DXCC Card Checkers;
- The applicant is responsible for ALL fees and postage. DXCC does not provide reimbursement for out of pocket expenses incurred by Card Checkers;
- DXCC Card Checkers receive a package of training and reference material to assist them;
- Card Checkers receive one copy of The ARRL DXCC List. Update information will be made available to them by e-mail. This is the only copy Card Checkers will receive;
- The DXCC Desk will notify Card Checkers of any problems that occur, after processing, that need attention;
- DXCC Card Checker appointments must be renewed every 2 years and renewal is determined by performance as determined by the DXCC Desk.

This, and other necessary information to assist Card Checkers, will be sent upon appointment.

(All information on this page courtesy of the ARRL Web Site. Visit ARRL.org for detailed)