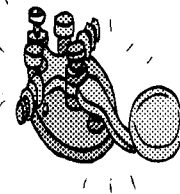




# Long Path



◆ Volume 18 Issue 05

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

June 2001

## April Minutes

Meeting was called to order by president **K8NA** at 8:00 PM. Treasurer reported a balance of \$862.00 for the period ending April 1. Income of \$310.00 and expenses of \$418.70 resulted in a current balance of \$753.24.

Secretary approved minutes of previous meeting as appearing in the *Long Path*. **N8CQA** forwarded necessary papers to the **ARRL** for reinstatement of **SEMDXA**. **AC8W** volunteers as the club's **DXCC** card checker and will begin the paper work.

**K8GT** read the Dayton Hamvention Antenna Forum agenda. The DX Forum has been moved back to the arena for this years gathering. **W8LU** asked for a nomination of club officers. President **K8NA** stated that due to small meeting turnout, we will wait until the fall for election of new officers.

**W8AP** made several suggestions to generate interest in meetings including inviting manufacturers rep visits, home brew night and QSL checking. **K8GT** suggested that we approach other clubs and invite those members to join us at **SEMDXA**.

**W8LU** indicated that **K8PYD** and **WT8S** will visit **SEMDXA** at the June meeting and talk about their recent experiences during the **BQ9P** Pratus fracas. **K8PYD** will provide information about the 8th Call Area incoming QSL bureau operation.

April's **SEMDXA** meeting included two videos. The first was the 1976

Okino Tori-Shima **7J1RL** operation sponsored by the **JARL** (a new **DXCC** country but only for a short period of time). The second video depicted **N2AA**'s multi-multi contest operation (entitled "To Win the World").

Seventeen members and guests were present.

**AC8W**

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## June Meeting

**SEMDXA** will meet on Friday June 8, at the new Elks Club in Royal Oak (Fourth Street and 175 Service Drive) - Same location as our recent meetings. Plan to join us at 6:00 PM for cocktails followed by dinner and then a special program at 8:00 PM. If you must skip dinner, join us for our program and fellowship.

Leo, **K8PYD** and Paul, **NT8S** are coming from Columbus, Ohio to share their adventure to Pratas Island. Both Leo and Paul were members of the June, 2000 Pratas Island DX-pedition. Leo heads the 8th call district **ARRL** incoming QSL bureau in Columbus. We can expect that he will make some comments about the bureau subsequent to the Pratas program.

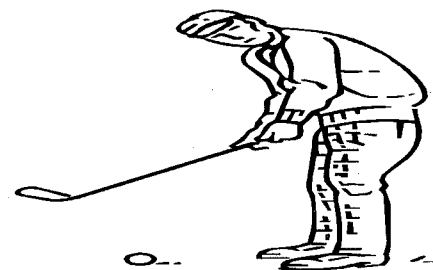
Please advise Buck, **N8CQA** if

you plan to have dinner. Buck may be reached via e-mail at **N8CQA@tir.com** or telephone at 248 435 2448. The Elks Club requires a pre-meeting headcount. We encourage you to join us. Remember, selling dinners and beverages is the Elk's incentive to allow us to use their meeting room. We need to support them.

**W8LU**

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This will be the last issue of the *Long Path* until September. Have a safe and happy summer holiday season!



## SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ted Pauck, **K8NA**

Vice-President: Hank Kohl, **K8DD**

Treasurer: Buck Switzer, **N8CQA**

Secretary: Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

Director: Open

Awards Chairman: Gary Rutledge, **KR8V**

QSL Manager: **AC8W**

Program Chair: Gary Rutledge, **KR8V**

LP Publisher: Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

## Never Give Up!

Being stuck at 93 confirmed countries (97 worked) on Six Meters for nearly ten years frustrated this writer endlessly. Unanswered QSLs included **TG9KJ**, **ZS6LT**, **CO2OJ** and **PZ1AP**. A string of cards went to each including green stamps with no results. The **PZ1AP** QSO was especially irritating since I had received several cards covering other bands over the years but none for our Six Meter QSO dating back to 1981!

Earlier this year I was able to work him on 12 meter CW and asked about QSLs from prior QSOs. He assured me that he QSLs all cards received and stated that he never received a card from me for our Six Meter contact. That comment meant that at least seven QSL attempts went astray over a period of twenty years.

I was at the Post Office the next day and sent two cards via registered mail together with green stamps and an SAE (one for Six Meters and the other for the 12 Meter QSO). Happily, two weeks later my patience was answered upon receipt of QSLs - one for the 1981 Six Meter QSO and the other for our 12 Meter QSO.

Oh yes, before I forget, a similar effort for the three other outstanding pasteboards remains in limbo. But you can never underestimate perseverance, patience and persistence in these matters! Green stamps and registered mail helps too.

**W8GF**

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## US Postal Service

US Postal Service Publication 51 provides a wealth of information regarding International Postal Rates and is available at your local Post Office. The most recent publication date is January 2001. Also, their web site at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) provides similar but more up-to-date information.

Postcards (QSLs) and Postal Cards to Canada and Mexico are presently 50¢ while all other countries are 70¢. Recent word is that these rates will be increased by 1¢ beginning July 1, 2001. Regular overseas First Class Airmail letter rates are not quite so simple. Table 4a in Publication 51 for example has five columns depicting Rate Groups, 1 through 5. Postal rates vary depending upon weight and destination. Adjacent rows depict weights between 1 and 64 ounces. In all cases, a one ounce letter can be sent to any country of the world for 80 cents. For weights in excess of one ounce rates vary depending upon Rate Groups. A country listing table in Publication 51 depicts Rate Group assignments. In general, Rate Group 4 is assigned to more remote locations. Numbers 1 and 2 are assigned to Canada and Mexico.

For example, a two ounce First Class letter sent to Australia (Rate Group #4) will require \$1.70 postage. Similarly, a two ounce letter to the British Virgin Islands (Group Rate #5) will cost \$1.55.

Table 4b depicts surface mail Rate Groups for weights of sixteen ounces or more. Surface mail -on average- is about half the cost of Airmail.

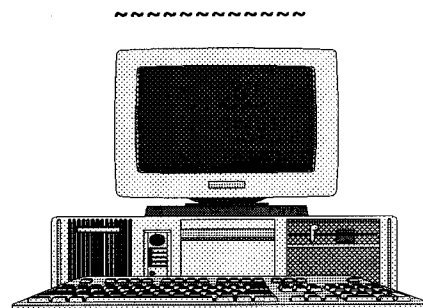
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## HELP!

To make the *Long Path* more interesting for our readership, we need your help. This is a plea for material to be published in the **SEMDXA** organ. Just about any subject touching on DX or DXing is deemed suitable. A few such ideas follow:

- \*Humorous incidents
- \*New equipment experience
- \*Gripes or complaints dealing with DXing
- \*Unusual QSO's or other observations
- \*Antenna ideas -especially for limited space
- \*DXer profiles, yourself or others
- \*Packet Cluster technology
- \*Interesting Internet Web Sites

Contact the Publisher for more details.



### Looking for an Angel!

In the past a stout hearted **SEMDXA** member with connections stepped forward and provided printing (copying) services for the *Long Path*. The club usually provided the paper and pick up/delivery service. This enabled our meager treasury resources to be used for more attractive - albeit expensive - meeting programs. Any volunteers? Contact *Long Path* Publisher for more details.

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