

Long Path



Volume 20 Issue 1

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

September, 2002

June Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:00 PM by President **K8NA**. Twenty-five members and guests present. **K8NA** introduced guest speaker and honorary member Mike McGirr **K9AJ**. Mike provided a slide show depicting his adventures as part of the DX-pedition to provide the deserving with an all-time new DXCC Entity, Ducie Island. Ducie became a DXCC entity as a result of the admission of the Pitcairn Island Amateur Radio Association to the IARU.

The international team of Amateurs gathered in Tahiti and met the Ship MV Braveheart at Gambier Island. The Braveheart, an ocean research vessel, had sailed to Tahiti direct from the Falkland Islands after the recent VP8 South Georgia and South Sandwich DX-pedition. After loading equipment they departed for Pitcairn Island, VP6, two days sailing from Tahiti.

After loading equipment and supplies at Pitcairn, the Braveheart headed for Ducie, a thirty-hour sail eastward. They slowed down at 2:00 AM and timed their arrival for sunrise. They off-loaded their gear and set up amid the rocks, broken coral, shells and "cabbage trees".

Lots of planning helped to insure a successful first ever operation from Ducie. Gear for each site was color coded; each operator had their own laptop computer. There was no drinking (the Pitcairn Islanders are Seventy Day Adventists) and no satellite phones because of a tax issue on Pitcairn. The team of nine amateurs, four support

staff and the four crew of the MV Braveheart did a great job handing out a new one. All told they worked 51,120 QSOs with 22,413 unique calls.

Returning to Pitcairn Island the DX-pedition group paid an additional \$900.00 (on top of the \$4,500 to go to Ducie) to stop at Henderson Island where they made another 4,200 QSOs between March 27 and 29. Henderson Island is largely flat, but has 100' cliffs with few sandy beaches. They set up with an FT100 -running low power- and gave out this new IOTA OC-0565 counter.

Mike also showed his slides of Pitcairn Island. Depicted were Bounty Bay, Adamstown, the famous long boats, island transport on ATVs and the hospitality of the islanders. Postage stamps provide some income to this rarely visited outpost. Some operating time was spent in the CQ WPX SSB Contest before they departed for the return trip to Tahiti and home. Great show Mike!

After Mike's presentation President **K8NA** called for the election of officers for the 2002/2003 year. The following members were duly elected:

President: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**
Vice-president: John Millet, **K8JM**
Treasurer: Buck Switzer, **N8CQA**
Secretary: Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

Treasurer **N8CQA** reported a balance of \$406.62 in the Treasury. **N8ZX** reports that he sent his Yaesu FT1000MP MK-V in for nine modifications and received it back in less than one month.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

AC8W, Secretary

WAZ Checker

Our President **K8SIX** advises the *Long Path* that he is now an authorized CQ WAZ Program card checker.

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS OF SEPTEMBER, 2002 MEETING AND PROGRAM PLANNED!

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**

CQ Checker: Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

CQ Checker: Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

Program Chairman: Vacant

LP Publisher: Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**



President's Report

As you know I was elected President of *SEMDXA* at the June, 2002 meeting and despite having a tough act to follow, I will do my best to make things work. Ted, **K8NA** has much more experience than I do but I am sure that with some help I will manage to stumble along.

Since we do not have a Program Director, I took it upon myself to get **WT8S** to speak at the October meeting on his Pratas DX-pedition. He mentioned, if possible, he will bring along Leo, **K8PYD** to speak as well. If Leo comes we will also have some videos and slides. I am sure it will be an interesting meeting.

Congratulations are in order for Gerry, **W8GF** for not only doing a fine job with the *Long Path* but also for his recent accomplishment of acquiring DXCC on Six Meters!

I hope all of you had a most enjoyable summer and got all your antenna projects finished. I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you at the September meeting. Until then, best DX and 73.

K8SIX, President

□

Goodbye Flying Horse

The Radio Amateur Call Book has ceased publication. In 1997 the printed version was dropped and only the CD version was sold. Publisher Bob Hughes says that sales have diminished to the point that it

was not longer feasible to market even the CD version. He attributed this to the easy accessibility to the FCC data base via the internet. The Call Book began publishing in 1920!

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## Troy Tower Ordinance

The Troy City Council seems to be inching closer to modifying the Tower Ordinance to accommodate the City's amateur radio operators. An August 5th City Council meeting was well attended by local hams and those from surrounding communities. The issue will be studied and a favorable outcome seems likely.

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Following piece was written by Howard O. Lorenson, W7BI and submitted courtesy of George Goldstone, W8AP. For the neophytes among us, Arthur Godfrey was a radio talk-show host and entertainer with great popularity and a huge following years ago.

A. M. Godfrey, K4LIB

When the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) was established in 1923, the US Navy simultaneously established the Radio Material School at the same location. Together these two Naval institutions were known as Bellevue. Here promising Navy Radiomen would receive their instructions in radio theory in the morning and spend the afternoon in the laboratory, assisting engineers with the building, testing and operation of new radio equipment.

The Coast Guard was also entitled to a couple of slots in each class at Bellvue. For a young radioman to be selected to go to Bellvue was a sure sign he was an outstanding operator, and in modern terms he had his career made. Here he would work with the engineers on the

newest inventions for the Navy.

For one of the early classes the Coast Guard selected a young "White Hat" by the name of Arthur M. Godfrey as its candidate for Bellvue. Godfrey arrived a few days early and reported to the Commander of the Radio Material School.

Since classes would not start for a few days, the Commander suggested Arthur spend his time looking around and getting acquainted with the engineers. He suggested perhaps first making a visit to a small wooden building at the base of one of the 300-foot radio towers. At this "field house", they were working on a new high-powered short-wave transmitter and no doubt they would be willing to show him the set and tell him about its operation.

When Arthur arrived at the field house he was met by a man who was busy sweeping the floor. He had on an old cap and sweater, and was smoking a corn cob pipe. In those days the lab had one janitor and his duties were confined to the main building so engineers were expected to keep the field house swept up. When the man finished sweeping he greeted Arthur with "I guess they sent you out to see the new transmitter." Arthur nodded in agreement.

The man then proceeded to describe the equipment as the newest master-oscillator power amplifier type design using screen grid tubes in the amplifier stages and incidentally explained these tubes didn't require neutralization like triodes did.

He also said the oscillator stage ran continuously and the amplifier stage was keyed to avoid "chirp" associated with keyed oscillators. He explained the frequency was maintained to a very high degree of accuracy by the use of the new quartz crystals which were mounted in an oven and temperature

controlled.

The antenna system, he explained, was a phased array suspended between the two towers. At the end of an hour, he finished his description and Arthur went back to the Commander's Office.

The Commander asked Arthur if they had shown him the new transmitter. Arthur replied "yes, but I don't know what the heck I am doing here. I just had an hour technical description of the Navy's newest development by a janitor! Hell, he knows more about radio than I ever will".

The Commander laughed and asked Arthur to describe the janitor for him. Arthur said "he was smoking a corn cob pipe, had on an old cap, and a coat-type sweater and was sweeping the floor when I came in." The Commander said "son, you have just had a lecture from the Navy's Chief Scientist Dr. A. Hoyt Taylor not the janitor".

Dr. Taylor pioneered in the development of short-wave radio communications and is credited with establishing the high standards which made NRL an outstanding research organization.

*Editor' note: Mr. Godfrey, **K4LIB** became a silent key in 1983.*

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## September Meeting

The first meeting of the new season will take place on September 13. The scheduled speaker is Rick Dorsch, NE8Z. Rick's program will deal with his recent adventure in North Africa. As in the recent past

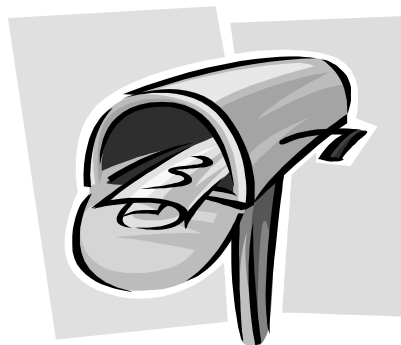
the meeting will be held at the Clawson-Troy Elks Club located at 1451 Big Beaver Road (16-Mile Road). Dinner will be available beginning at 5:30 PM together with a cash bar serving your favorite beverages. Come early bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship of other members.

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Membership Dues

Your club membership fees are due and payable at the September 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. 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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**No more *Long Path* Newsletters via the USPO. E-mail only!**

## Six Meter QRM

As has been mentioned in this publication and noted by many local Six-Meter operators, severe QRM has hampered operation here for nearly three years. A number of suspects were chased down but most operators felt that the problem was with our local Channel Two television transmitter. Some felt the problem was with the vestigial side-band suppression circuitry while others thought it might be due to some non-linear component(s) in the final amplifiers. The ARRL RFI Guru WIRFI thought the later.

Recently this interference has all but disappeared which was cheered by one and all. Contacting technical personnel at Channel Two was fruitless because retirement has mandated staffing changes recently and no one seems to know if there was a problem or how it was resolved. But, the QRM has disappeared and that's what is important! Meanwhile, further attempts will be made to determine the cause of this problem. More on this later.

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W1AW

The ARRL Headquarters' Maxim Memorial Station has held this call sign since 1938. Hiram Percy Maxim, the League's founder, was the former holder until his death in 1936. The future of **W1AW** is in jeopardy due to aging equipment and lack of funds. The League is attempting to raise \$150,000.00 to endow and insure the future of this grand tradition, **W1AW**. Potential contributors can visit the ARRL Web-Site and steer for: www.arrrl.org/endoww1aw.html. Help out if you are able!

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: _____

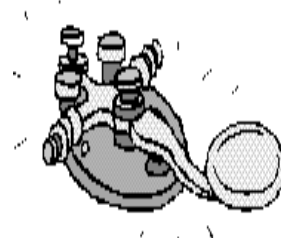
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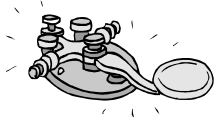
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEMDXA

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

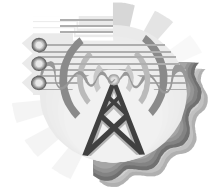
***Leon Switzer, Treasurer
427 Jeffrey Avenue
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073***

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









September 2002



SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN DX ASSOCIATION (SEMDXA) MONTHLY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

S M T W T F S

1	2 QRP CW SPRINT LABOR DAY 	3	4	5 WIAW QUALIFYING RUN	6	7 NEW MOON ASIA SSB TEST IARU REGION 1 FD NA SPRINT CW DARC DIGITAL TEST QRP PSK31 SPRINT
8 GRANDPARENTS DAY 	9	10	11 K6YR QUALIFYING RUN (WEST COAST) YLRL CW, SSB CONTEST	12	13 YLRL TEST SEMDXA MEETING 	14 ARRL VHF QSO PARTY NA SSB SPRINT WAE SSB CONTEST GRAND RAPIDS ARA SWAP
15 ADRIAN ARA SWAP	16 YOM KIPPUR	17	18 WIAW QUALIFYING RUN	19	20 FULL MOON	21 FALL NJ QRP ARRRL 10 GHZ TEST SCANDINAVIAN CW TEST WASH STATE SALMOM PANAMA CONTEST CLASSIC EXCHANGE
22 YANKEE AIRFORCE MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE (W8YAF)	23 AUTUMN BEGINS 	24	25	26	27	28 CQ RTTY TEST SCANDINAVIAN SSB TEXAS QSO PARTY LOUISIANA QSP PARTY ALABAMA QSO PARTY
29	30					