



Long Path



Volume 19 Issue 9

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

June, 2002

May Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:03 PM by President **K8NA**. Twenty-nine members and guests were present. Self-introductions included call sign, name and home QTH.

W8LU ordered the callbook CDs three weeks ago but they are not here yet.... Expect them at the June meeting.

We now have two CQ Checkpoint members, **N8MR** and **K8SIX**. They join **N8KF** and **AC8W** who are ARRL DXCC card checkers. **P5/4L4FN** cards are now being received. **K8NWD** showed off his!

K8NA opened the floor for nomination of Club Officers. Elections will be held at the June, 2002 meeting. **W8LU** urged all to consider helping out by running for office, especially the Program Director's office. Lots of help is promised. Nominations so far include; President, **K8SIX**; Vice-president, **K8JM**; Treasurer, **N8CQA** and **WQ8T**; Secretary, **AC8W**. No nominations were introduced for the Program Director's office.

K8NA reminded us that our dues-year ends in June and will start again in September. Next month's program includes a visit by journeyman DXer **K9AJ**. He will tell us about his adventures during past DXpeditions. Sure to be a fun and fact-filled evening.

No news from Vice-president **K8DD** and Secretary **AC8W**. No new business beyond approval of last month's meeting minutes as published in the *Long Path*.

N8ZX has a Yaesu FT1000MP MK5 nearing the end of its warranty period. When he called the service representative he was told to send it in because there have been several major and minor modifications that can be taken care of under warranty terms. How 'bout yours?

Our program this month featured **K8CW** (Al) and his XYL, **KA8TKB** (Ann). Al is an honorary member of **SEMDXA** and a veteran of many DXpeditions. He reports that his interests have moved from DX to chasing IOTA and currently County hunting. He and Ann have put out more than 900 Counties. One of his most memorable trips was to Alaska where they put out all four Judicial Districts including District 2 which has only one road in and out! After putting a \$300.00 deposit against stone damaged windshields they drove up along the pipeline. The best way combat "stone throwing trucks" is to pull over and stop when they pass. He called CQ for an hour and a half before working someone in the northwest who alerted the rest of the county hunter gang. Al and Ann work each other using a second rig on a dummy load (legal under CQ rules).

Al started by showing slides of the 1982 Navassa, **KP2A/KP1** DXpedition. Very hard to land and very inhospitable, but they gave many of the deserving a new one. Navassa was acquired by the USA by the Bird Guano Act of 1894. No longer occupied, it is only visited by the Coast Guard who occasionally land by helicopter to service batteries in the lighthouse.

Next Al showed us his 1982 St. Peter & Paul rocks, **PY0SJ**, vacation. After several false starts with permissions they finally landed on St. Peter and setup on the lower black rocks (a mistake) because the white rocks were white because of bird guano. But they soon found out that the reason for the black rocks was that the tide washed them clean! So they had to move everything to higher ground. Murphy was rampant on this one including generator problems, bird lice and crabs and the boat skipper who provided them with rancid pork and rice to eat.

1983 Heard Island, **VK0CW** was perhaps the most memorable. Leaving from Perth, Australia with a mountain climbing group aboard the sailboat

SEMDXA CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ted Pauck, **K8NA**

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

Treasurer: Buck Switzer, **N8CQA**

Secretary: Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

Director: Open

DXCC Checker: Bill Jones, **N8KF**

DXCC Checker: S.Arnett, **AC8W**

CQ Checker: Mike Rudzki, **N8MR**

CQ Checker: S. Arnett, **AC8W**

Program Chairman: Open

LP Publisher: Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

Anaconda II on New Year's day they stopped at Kerguelon Island, FB8X en-route. When they arrived at Heard they first unloaded a six-month supply of food in case they were stranded. They floated fuel oil ashore and the two operators began handing out the rarest using IC740's and Dentron Amplifiers running 500 watts and various antennas on all bands. They had two hurricanes during their stay and constantly had to repair and "jury rig" antennas because of wind damage and local seals and walrus. A strange twist of fate brought Jim Smith's (**VK9JS**) group to operate at the same time.... on one of the rarest spots on earth with two DXpeditions at the same time!

1985 brought Al and Ann to Galapagos, **HC8X**, which was a large multi-multi CQ WW DX Contest operation organized by our own **NE8Z**. They took over the **HC8FN** hotel on the island and erected an impressive amount of aluminum .. six beams plus wire for the low bands. Sightseeing included meeting the oldest tortoise, "Lonesome George" who was born (hatched?) sometime around the war of 1812! When they came on the air with seven KW of combined power they knocked the local power plant of the grid. Needless to say their score was impressive and they had a great time. Their hosts on the return trip were most gracious.

In 1990 Al and Ann visited Malaysia, **9M600** along with **N200** and **WB2KXA** on a trip sponsored by Anchor Beer. They stayed with **9M6MU** and **9M6DU** while in Saba and enjoyed their hospitality. The rain forests are fast disappearing but the countryside is still quite beautiful. Their trip included a visit to Mt Kodakinaballo, which is represented on their national flag. Their return through the Philippines was where they narrowly missed being caught in a military uprising.

From Manila they flew to Hong Kong and went by ferry to Macau where they operated as **XX9AF**, **XX9IS**, **XX900** and **XX9KA**. Fantastic!

Al is now making mobile antennas and enjoying county hunting. **N8KF** revealed that Al has another hidden talent. He can tie a knot in a cherry stem with his tongue! Truly a man of many talents..... Thanks Al and Ann for a most enjoyable program!

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM to general fellowship.

AC8W, Secretary

SEMDXA Visitor K8BKM

What follows is a recent note from **K8BKM** to **K8NA**:

*Ted, I just wanted to thank you for your hospitality at Friday evening's **SEMDXA** meeting. Unlike many clubs and associations that don't welcome newcomers, I felt very welcomed and was very pleased that you took the time to quickly greet me and introduce yourself. I enjoyed the company and the excellent presentation by **K8CW**.*

*I've been licensed since 1975 as **WN8BKM** then **WD8BKM**. I was quite active in my youth on DX and together with a good friend of mine, started the 145.59 simplex DX "cluster" HI, Hi. During the late 70's and early 80's, numerous Flint DXers joined us and shared spots on this frequency. In 1982, I left home for college at Michigan Tech and pretty much got out of the hobby for the next ten years. I've only recently gained some renewed enthusiasm for HF and DXing, after upgrading to Extra in 1998. I enjoy HF CW DXing, VHF/UHF weak signal signal grid chasing, contesting and my involvement with Tim and the CRA in maintaining the Clarkston repeater. I've known Tim Pepper, **N8KF**, **N8SNM**, **K8ZZU** and **K8SIX** for years and really enjoy the opportunity join them in attending last night's meeting. I look forward to joining **SEMDXA** in September when the new year starts (or sooner, if possible), and look forward to getting to know some of the other*

club members.

*Thanks again. Tom, **K8BKM***

WØDX SK

Past ARRL President and DXpedition pioneer Robert W. Denniston, **WØDX/VP2VI** is a silent key. He died unexpectedly in his sleep on May 13, 2002 at age 83.

Denniston served as ARRL President from 1966 to 1972 and as IARU president from 1966 until 1974. During the second weekend of the 1948 ARRL DX Contest he operated as **VP7NG** and was credited with being the "Father of the Modern DXpedition". Other operations included Clipperton **FOØAJ** (1954), Malpelo **HKØTU** (1969) and **VP1JH**, now Belize, (1960). The 1960 DX Contest operation as **VP1JH** included mechanical code wheels for generating 599 signal reports for one and all!

Denniston held a variety of calls over the years including **W9NWX**, **W4NNN**, **W0NWX** and **WØDX**. During WWII he served in the US Army Signal Corps and was chief of the radio control section of radio station WAR at the Pentagon. Recently, he lived in the British Virgin Islands and ran the Smugglers Cove Hotel in Tortola.

SUMMERTIME!

This is the last issue of the *Long Path* for this season. The next issue will be a mailed version appearing in September, 2002 together with a coupon for membership registration and dues payment. Have a great summer and keep an eye peeled for six meter Es propagation. F2 propagation may be over for this cycle but Es can be a pleasant surprise otherwise!

SEMDXA CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MONTH OF JUNE, 2002

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
June 1, 2	LABRE	CW DX Contest	www.csel.com/gacw
June 1, 2	Field Day	IARU, CW Region 1	June QST, Page 90
June 1	CW Contest	QRPTAC (EPA QRP Club)	June QST, Page 90
June 6	W1AW	CW Qualifying Run, 10 PM EDT	June QST, Page 90
June 8–10	QSO Party	ARRL VHF	May QST, Page 110
June 8, 9	RTTY Contest	ANARTS World Wide	www.qsl.net/anarts/
June 8, 9	RSGB	Jubilee Contest, CW/SSB	www.rsgbbhfcc.org
June 12	K6YR	West Coast Qualifying Run, 9 PM PDT	June QST, Page 90
June 14	SEMDXA	Club Meeting, Elections!	Long Path, vol 19, #9
June 15	Event	Kid's Day Operating Event	June QST
June 15, 16	DX Contest	All-Asian (CW)	June QST, Page 90
June 15, 16	QSO Party	SMIRK 6-Meters	www.smirk.org
June 15, 16	QSO Party	West Virginia QSO Party (CW, SSB)	www.qsl.net/wvarrl
June 20	W1AW	CQ Qualifying Run, 7 PM EDT	June QST, Page 90
June 22, 23	Field Day	ARRL Annual Field Day	May QST, Page 108
June 22, 23	QRP Contest	ARCI, Milliwatt Field Day	June QST, Page 90
June 22, 23	Spain Contest	His Majesty, King of Spain (SSB)	May QST, Page 104

Note: The June, 2002 SEMDXA meeting will be held in the usual place; Troy-Clawson Elk's Club located on Big Beaver Road (16-Mile Road). Dinner and your favorite libation will be available in the main dining room. The meeting starts at 8:00 PM sharp. Following a brief meeting, elections will be held for SEMDXA Officers. Later, veteran DXpeditioner Mike McGirr—K9AJ will speak about his DXploits over the years! Mike is a world-class DXer and will provide an outstanding program for the season's last meeting. Be sure to attend and bring along a friend.