

Long Path



Volume 19 Issue 8

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

May, 2002

April Minutes

Called to order at 8:04 p.m. by President Ted, **K8NA**. Twenty-seven members and guests present. We are happy to have Tim, **K8NWD**, back with us after recuperating from a heart attack.

Gene, **N8ZX**, tells us that you can get your call as a vanity plate (i.e. **N8ZX-1**, **N8ZX-2**, etc.). You just have to fill out the form and pay your money. George, **WB8BGY**, related the story of the new Amateur Radio Plate pictured in several publications....seems he got one of each design because the form was hand written and the Secretary of State office made a mistake. So, George gets to keep both valid plates!

Ken, **W8LU**, is getting the Flying Horse Callbook CD on a group buy for \$31 each if enough are interested. The Flying Horse has some DX addresses that QRZ does not. Let Ken know if you want in on the deal.

Congrats to Gerry, **W8GF**, our *Long Path* editor for getting the newsletter made available electronically. It will be e-mailed to club members who have supplied their e-mail address...if you can't receive PDF files via e-mail you can still receive a print version by snail mail. The transition was not without its problems, but Gerry prevailed...great job!

DX News...

The **K3J** QSL cards are in the works. Several members report having Ed, **P5/4L4FN** in their log.

Gene, **N8ZX**, suggested an honorary membership for Monk Apollo, **SV2ASP/A**. Stan, **AC8W** and Hank, **K8DD** will gladly deliver the honor if the club will foot the bill. (Hi Hi).

The Secretary's report was approved as printed in the *Long Path*.

The Treasurer reports a March 1 balance of \$506.89, added \$115.00, spent \$118.27 for an April 1 balance of \$503.62.

Ted, **K8NA**, announced that next month's speaker would be Al Fisher, **K8CW** from Mansfield, OH. Al is the veteran of many DXpeditions and should be very interesting.

Jack, **K8OLG**, asked about dues... Buck, **N8CQA**, says he believes we are caught up at this time.

Tonight's program features George Race, **WB8BGY**, from Albion. George is, of course, the Great Lakes Division Director for the ARRL. The Logbook of the World (LOTW) has been in development for some time because the League, recognizing the increased cost of QSLing, wanted to put in place a mechanism for league members to obtain awards without incurring tremendous expense.

Using LOTW logs are sent using Cabrillo or ADIF formats to a secure server...when Q's match an automatic award is recognized. You will be notified that you are eligible and it is up to you to send the fee for the award. Procedures are being set up to insure validation using a 128-bit encrypted ID...probably a copy of your

license and signature in a letter will get the encryption key. It will be up to the participants to maintain the integrity of the program.

Current plans are to proceed from inception and go forward...not to do retroactive logs. The League expects an initial inrush and then a tapering off. They may eventually open up and go back.

As with any computer venture the data needs to be accurate (GIGO). All the logging program writers have been given the codes that will handshake with the encryption code. George touched on the concern over e-QSL and the fact that the League will not yet accept them. Wayne Mills at the League says that initially the e-QSL JPEG files were very easy to modify and make changes and some individuals tried to mail in for credit they did not deserve. ARRL DXCC desk has

SEMDXA CLUB OFFICES

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**

Program Chairman: Open

LP Publisher: Gerry Fasse, **W8GF**

been in correspondence with the e-QLS folks and they are working on how they are handled and what the League will accept. They are moving to a role traditionally filled by a QSL manager and, if the League can be satisfied that integrity can be maintained, e-QLS's may be valid sometime in the future.

George, **W8AP**, expressed concern that Amateur Radio is falling by the wayside in light of the needs of commercial and military for valuable radio frequency spectrum. Instead of promoting DX and contesting we need to teach people about radio. He is afraid that the League staff is skilled, but the employees are concerned about preserving their job and pension, not in preserving our hobby!

George then spoke towards the direction the ARRL is headed and the cost of running the organization. He highlighted several initiatives such as the Big Project and the move to web based services (e-mail forwarding, E-Commerce, on-line certifications, etc.). The ARRL is and organization in transition...from growth to no growth; from publishing to fund raising; from tangible services to intangible; from earned income to donations; from member benefits to benefits for the entire amateur community; and, finally, from FREE to FEE.

Lastly, George reports that with the new DXCC software in place the card turnaround is now ten days! The meeting adjourned to a general fellowship at 9:50 p.m.

Stan, **AC8W**, Secretary

General Elections

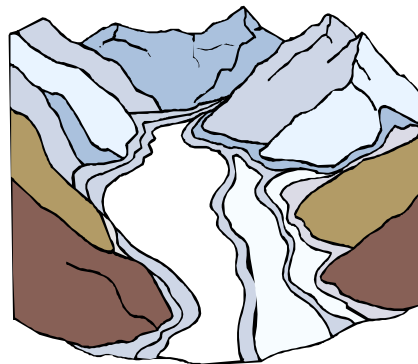
Ted, K8NA advises us that our **May meeting will include nominations for SEMDXA Club Officers. The June meeting will include elections. Be prepared to nominate your favorite candidate!**

May, 2002 Meeting

The May 10, 2002 SEMDXA meeting will take place at the Troy-Clawson Elks Club located on Big Beaver Road (16-Mile Road). As in the past a variety of meals will be available at reasonable prices. Dinner orders will be taken with seating in the main dining room beginning at 5:30 PM and served as they are prepared. This is a departure from the past where meals were served simultaneously. Club and restaurant management made this change to enable more efficient kitchen service. All members are urged to arrive early and enjoy the DX gang along with your favorite libation available at the cash bar. The meeting will begin promptly at 8:00 PM.

The evening's program will be highlighted by a visit by Al Fisher, K8CW. Al is a veteran of many DX-peditions including the most extraordinary Heard Island caper of yore where two separate groups arrived at this most remote, lonely and hostile island at the same time!

Be sure to attend this event and bring along a friend. This promises to be one of our most interesting visitors ever!



Questions/Answers

Last month's *Long Path* contained an article dealing with an automatic tuner parts kit as marketed by LDG Electronics. A number of question brought up by the membership are noted below along with an explanation.

Why is the equipment designed with only an "L" Network? Two main reasons; first the "L" network is employed for its simplicity and economy of parts and second, it can match a very wide range of impedances and operate under less than ideal conditions.

Why are toroids used for inductors rather than a more conventional coil? Due to the toroid's core permeability, greater inductance values can be achieved in less space. Also it simplifies kit construction by even a less experienced amateur.

Why is the tuner less efficient when attempting to match low Z loads? This is because the low impedance load is effectively in series with tuner components and ohms law states power is equal to $I^2 \times R$. Thus, if the load Z is say equal to the series Z of the tuner, half of the power will be dissipated in the load and the balance in the tuner components! This explanation is probably an over simplification but close enough for this discussion.

Is an external tuner better than say the internal tuner on a conventional HF Transceiver? Depends.....Modern HF Transceivers equipped with automatic tuners have memories which provide more rapid antenna matching once the initial match is completed. On the other hand, the "L" Network tuner described does have a much wider matching range.

Can I use this tuner on six meters? Probably not. Stray inductance and capacitance is excessive to allow use on bands much higher than ten meters.

W8GF

SEMDXA CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MONTH OF MAY, 2002

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
May 3	W1AW	Qualifying Run 7 PM	May QST, Page 104
May 8	K6YR	West Coast Qualifying Run 9 PM PST	
May 20	W1AW	Qualifying Run 9 AM	
May 4, 5	IPA Contest	International Police Association	www.iparc.org
	MARAC	County Hunters Contest	April QST, Page 93
	10-10	International Spring Contest	February QST, Page 112
	Microwave Sprint	Spring Sprint	May QST, Page 93
	Indiana QSO Party	CW/SSB	www.hdxcc.org/inqso
	ARI DX Test	CW/SSB Contest	I4UFH@libero.it
	New England QSO	New England QSO Party	www.neqp.org
May 5-11	Danish SSTV Test	Slow Scan TV Contest	home5.inet.tele.dk/carle
May 11, 12	Nevada QSO	Nevada QSO Party	nw7o@arrrl.net
	Oregon QSO	Oregon QSO Party	k4xu@arrrl.net
	FISTS	FISTS Spring Sprint	Feb. QST, Page 109
	CQ-M	International DX Contest	www.mai.ru/~crc/cq-m/cqmain_e
	50 mHz	Spring Sprint	April QST, Page 93
May 18, 19	Spain Contest	His Majesty King of Spain Contest	ure@ure.es
	Anatolian RTTY	Anatolian RTTY Contest	www.qsl.net/ta4kg/rtty/Kurallar.html
May 25, 26	CQ WW WPX	CQ WW WPX Contest	May CQ, Page 84
	QRP ARCI	Hootowl CW Sprint	Dec. QST 2001 , Page 98
May 27, 28	MI QRP CW	Michigan QRP Memorial Day Sprint	Jan. QST, Page 107