



# Long Path



Volume 36 Issue 3

SEMDXA NEWSLETTER

June 2018



## Pres Sez

We will all be off doing our summer stuff after the June meeting and we will reconvene in September on the second Thursday at Gino's. The June meeting has a presentation by Jim N8MR on mobile state qso party contesting. I have not done mobile contesting and look forward to hearing about it.

The June meeting is election time and we will have some openings to fill.

Steve has done an excellent job as program manager and wanted to retire from that in January but we have not found a volunteer to take over. Steve has continued to find programs for us and I have taken over lugging and setting up the A/V equipment. We can not continue to leave the program manager position open or the quality of programs will suffer. I hope someone will step forward for this very important task. I can continue handling the A/V.

We will also require a volunteer to be secretary. Lee N8LJ has been our secretary but wishes to step down at this point.

I hope the way I handle the elections will be acceptable. I will ask each person that is currently serving whether they will consider serving another term and then I will open the floor to nominations and that includes self nominations. If there are multiple nominees we will hold a vote and if there is only one person we will hold a vote of confidence. We have not received an abundance of volunteers for any post in the past, and I hope we can fill the necessary positions. If a post remains open, we will carry on without that function until we do have a volunteer.

OK, now I can go 'off topic'. We are a DX group, but something has been initiated by Michigan QRP (MIQRP) and Oakland County Amateur Radio Society (OCARS) that I wanted to let you know about (I am a member of both and part of this project). We talked in both groups about starting something for those that want to do some electronic circuits. We thought we could exchange our experience among our members and others to help everyone have fun building. We found a place to meet once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday but, not

## Calendar

### Meeting:

**2nd THURSDAY**

**June 14, 2018**

### Gino's Restaurant

1999 Cass Lake Rd,  
Keego Harbor, MI 48320

*Google Map with directions at  
[Gino's Pizza directions](#)*

Gathering starts at **5:30 pm**  
**(dinner on you) and meeting**  
**begins at 7 pm** followed by:  
election of 2018/19 executive  
and Jim, K8MR gives us a

### PRESENTATION

"Mobil QSO Party Contesting"

### SEMDXA OFFICERS

*President:* Doug Basberg **N8VY**

*Vice-president:* Dave De Rain, **K8ESQ**

*Treasurer:* Brad Nowak, **N8SNM**

*Secretary:* Lee Dziekan, **N8LJ**

*Program Director:* Steve Culp, **K8QKY**  
and Ned Keating, **KD8FCB**

*Directors:* Ted, **K8NA**, Bob, **K8VfV**,  
and Lee, **N8LJ**

### Club Appointees:

*Web Site Editor:* Larry Gauthier, **K8UT**

*LP Publisher:* Chet Latawicz, **VE3CFK**

### ARRL and CQ Appointees:

*DXCC Checker:* Stan Arnett, **AC8W**

*DXCC Checker:* Bill Jones, **N8KF**

*VUCC Checker:* Al Bailey, **K8SIX**

*VUCC Checker:* Jim Sanford, **K8ZZU**

## Prez Sez (cont'd)

wanting to pay for a location to meet, we ran into problems with our first location. We are now establishing another location to meet. I plan to provide meeting information in the fall when we are established in the new location. We also thought people might want to gain help and give advise between meetings. We created a web site [www.ohecc.wordpress.com](http://www.ohecc.wordpress.com) to do that. OHECC stands for "Oakland HAMs Electronic Circuits Club" and it is also something we say when we let smoke out of a part. If you or perhaps a family member or friend would like to get involved, then welcome! Please go to the web page for details. People are currently building QRP transceivers and Arduino, esp8266, esp32 projects and we do RF and digital stuff as well.

As we get things organized, we will inform about our activities on the web site. If you are interested, please go to the web site and sign up to 'follow'. Lee N8LJ told me about the great ubitx transceiver kit and I ordered one, so I will work on that. In fact I have ordered a 3D printer (to make enclosures), a hot air and iron SMD work station, a circuit board magnifier viewer to do RF and home automation.

That is it for now. We are always looking for presentation ideas and info on Dxpeditions and whatever you might want to share.

See you at the meeting

Doug N8VY

## Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:21 pm by President Doug N8VY. There were 21 members and guests in attendance.

Elections for the 2018-2019 SEMDXA officers will occur at our June meeting. There will be vacancies to fill. So please be ready to step up and take your turn to keep the organization going.

Marsha N8FE will retire as the Long Path editor so if SEMDXA would like to continue the Long Path journal, we need a volunteer.

Brad N8SNM presented the Treasure's Report. It was unanimously approved by membership present.

The meeting minutes from the April meeting were not available. They will be read along with the May meeting minutes at our June meeting.

Al K8SIX reports Ted K8NA is hospitalized at Beaumont Royal Oak.

Gerry K8GT reports that Cindy Sampson, TV star of the show "Private Eye", made a documentary of Bouvet Island in 2012. Cindy and her recording team climbed up to the top of the volcano. This documentary was shown on CTV network.

The 50/50 was won by Jim K8ZZU.

The evening's presentation was a video of the 2014 DXpedition to Amsterdam Island FT5ZM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Lee N8LJ

## Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by our president Doug N8VY. There were 28 members and guests in attendance.

The March meeting minutes will be reviewed at the May meeting.

The treasures report was presented and approved by the membership present.

Our DX Advisory Committee member Stan AC8W announced an advisory question as to whether or not the DXCC committee should create a special award category for FT-8 mode or keep it under the digital category. A discussion followed and opinions expressed. By a show of hands, the consensus of the group was to keep FT-8 under the Digital DXCC award.

There was a donation request for an upcoming Ducie Island VP6/D DXpedition. Since it did not make our top 25 needed list, a motion was approved to "pass the hat". We collected \$106 to donate to the VP6/D group.

We had two programs this evening both presented by SEMDXA's own Tom Hammond K8BKM. The first was personal research done by Tom about Crozet Island describing its environment and difficulties involved getting permission to have an amateur radio expedition. The second presentation was a video of the 2012 3D2C DXpedition to Conway Reef.

The 50/50 was won by Bob K8RGM.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee N8LJ

## Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:12pm by President Doug N8VY. There were 20 members and guests in attendance.

Brad N8SNM reported the state of the treasury. It was approved by the membership present.

The February meeting minutes were approved as reported in the Long Path.

The 50/50 was won by Wes AC8JF.

Dave K8ESQ reported that the SEMDXA logo was placed on the Tromelin FR/T DXpedition website. Our logo was not yet placed on the KH1 website. Our logo's on DXpedition websites usually occur after we make a donation.

Larry K8UT asked how many active members are on our roster, Brad N8SNM replied 42.

Pete K8PGJ will participate in the CQ WPX phone contest with the PJ2T Team. Be sure to work him before, during and after the contest. Spot him often.

Stan AC8W our DXCC QSL card checker now has authority to check 160 meter QSL's.

VP8D DXpedition will be in October 2018. We will have a donation/ pass the hat before we suspend our meetings for the summer months.

Mike WD8S requested that SEMDXA sponsors a plaque for the upcoming Michigan QSO Party. The motion was approved.

Cont'd.....

## Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

The presentation of the evening was the Dxpediton to Nicaragua in 2009 by SEMDXA's own Hank (YN2DD) K8DD, Stan (YN2WW) AC8W, Jim KB8TXZ (YN2TX), and Lee N8LJ (YN2LJ). Along with exciting details of the adventures and wild animals seen on the trip, they were able to place 2nd in the world for the ARRL DX CW contest.

Meeting adjourned 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted

Lee N8LJ

## Over-the-horizon communication on Mars

ARRL highlights a post by The Space Weather Woman, Dr. Tamitha Skov, that notes the role amateur radio technology could play in over-the-horizon radio communications on Mars.

A newbie to the Space Weather community dared to talk about Amateur Radio as if it were an outdated hobby-- whoops, bad idea.

What I hadn't expected was the strong interest in the concept that amateur radio will be critical to establishing over-the-horizon radio communications on planets like Mars in the near future.

This idea brings me back to how we managed to communicate over long distances many decades before we had satellites, internet or cellular networks. Few people realize that despite all our advanced technology, we can't bring a cell phone to Mars. We will need to fall back on our 'old ways' of doing things when it comes to communicating on other planets. Isn't it funny how 'old' things become 'new' again?

Dr. Tamitha Skov's latest video report:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwvKyY26lB0>

## Major DXpedition this month

Baker Island, KH1/KH7Z will be on the air from June 27 to July 6.

Check out their excellent web page at:  
<http://baker2018.net/index.html> for details.

This DXpedition commemorates the 81st anniversary of **Amelia Earhart's** disappearance on July 2, 1937 near Baker & Howland islands -- as well as the commitment and sacrifices made by the **Hui Panalā'au** -- students from Hawaii who lived on Baker, Howland and Jarvis from 1935-1942.

## Words from the Long Path Publisher

You may not have noticed, but the hand writing has changed as the pen has changed hands from Marsha, N8FE to Chet, VE3CFK.

I personally want to thank Marsha for her excellent publishing skills and time in preparing and issuing the Long Path for our club. I have big shoes to fill and a huge learning curve to tackle before I'll be as proficient as Marsha. Thanks again Marsha.

So. On that note. Please do not take objection to this issue of Long Path, as I quickly assembled the pertinent points of the publication. The next one I hope will be up to snuff.

Chet VE3CFK

*The years keep coming and going,  
 Men will arise and depart;  
 Only one thing is immortal:  
 The DX I haven't got . . .*

**Hugh Cassidy**