



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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The Texas DX Society, P.O. Box 540291 Houston, TX 77254-0291

President Earl Morse, N5TU
(281)-356-2128 kz8e@wt.net

Vice President Mike Davidson, N5MT
(713)668-8408, n5mt@aol.com

Secretary Ed Gerber W5GCX
(281)351-4170, w5gcx@fmm.net

Treasurer Dave Topp, W5BXX
(281)-879-9973, w5bxx@aol.com

Contest Chairman Dale Martin, KG5U
(281)484-4465, kg5u@hal-pc.org

Field Day Chairman

Repeater Chairman

DX Chairman Buzz Jehle, N5UR
(713)-464-6023, dxer@orx.com

Communications Chairman Jim Lane, N5DC
(281)-358-0051, n5dc@arrl.net

The Prez Sez- de Earl, N5TU

I was a little disappointed in the light showing for the Compaq tour. I guess anything outside the 610 loop must be considered the hinterlands by townies. Tomball isn't like a scene out of Deliverance, they almost cater to "city folk" now. Hope that the poor showing doesn't dampen future efforts for meeting programs.

The cluster has been moved to its future home at DeMontrond's at Rankin and I45. This is where the internet link will be obtained so that once hooked up we will get spots the easy way. This is going to require some money for the new software which brings up our next important order of business: the raffle. This is our only fund raiser and pays for all the stuff. Tickets will be out before the end of April and the drawing will be at the Dallas HamCom. We need everyone to buy and sell as many tickets as possible in order to maximize our net take on this fund raiser. Contact Madison to get your tickets. By the way the prize is a FT100 again this year.

June is a member voting month so start thinking about prospective members to be sponsored for membership. The next voting month is September. Business for this meeting will be to vote on sponsorship of the K5LZO Memorial Plaque for the NAQP contest, approve spending on cluster software, and discuss whether there will be a Field Day this year.

See you there.

Announcements

The April 13th meeting will be at Gabby's BBQ at 5311 Wesleyan.

If you coming from downtown go South on the Southwest freeway (59), exit at Buffalo Speedway (lots of construction around the Summit), go past Buffalo on the feeder down to Wesleyan. At Wesleyan turn left going under 59 going south on Wesleyan about five blocks, turn left into the parking lot and Gabby's is on your immediate left as you turn in. If you are coming from Sharpstown go North on Southwest freeway (59), exit Wesleyan, turn right on Wesleyan and go the five blocks, turn left into the parking lot, etc. If you are coming from the Northwest, take 610 West loop down to Southwest freeway (59) and turn north towards downtown, Wesleyan is the first exit after you get on 59. Remember Gabby's has lots of B & B so expect some may be there before 6 PM, hi. Lets use the long table on the west side of the Restaurant.

How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web: <http://www.tdxs.org>
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz
On 70 Cm: 447.00/442.00 (103.5 Hz)
On Packet: Connect to **TDXS71** (145.71) then connect to K5LV
Reflector: Send to: majordomo@moonbounce.n5iq.org
In the body of your message only put: subscribe tdxs-list
do *not* include your email address, as the reflector will pick it up automatically. Put nothing in the subject line.

Contest Column

by Dale Martin, KG5U

New National Contest Journal WebPages — the NCJ webpages have been updated and are now much easier to navigate and read. New features have been added and old ones have been brought up to date/speed. Check it out: www.ncjweb.com (NOTE: NEW URL—Update your Favorites links).

European Sprint Contest

Check out the European Sprint. This is a 4-hour contest based on the NA Sprint rules and peculiarities. The SSB section takes place this coming weekend (April 15 (Z)). Check out the rules at http://www.kkn.net/~i2uuy/EU_rul_DX.html
The CW section will be May 20 (Z).

Upcoming Contests:

MI, FL, NE, MA, ONT, IN, CT QSO Parties, MARAC County Hunters Contest (SSB), Helvetia Contest, 10-10 Int'l Spring Contest (CW), ARI Int'l DX Contest, FISTS Spring Sprint, CQM DX Contest, EU Spring Sprint (CW), CQ WW WPX Contest (CW), MI QRP Club Memorial Day CW Sprint. Check out the rules of interest at <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/cose0004.htm#APR> and <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/cose0005.htm#MAY>

WRTC2000 (July 08/1200Z - 09/1200Z)

The WRTC2000 Organizing Committee has selected the Referees for the upcoming World Radio Team Championship. The committee voted unanimously to promote Dave Summner, K1ZZ, as the Chief Referee. Dave will head up a team of seven to process the logs and scores after the contest. Notable (from TDXS point of view) referees appointed to monitor contest activities at particular station locations are K5RC and N5KO (and 51 others).

Check it all out:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/00/rules-iaru.html> and <http://wrtc2000.bit.si/>

Contest Reports (unofficial):

ARRL DX (SSB) Contest:

dx soab: V26P (W5AJ) HP 5361 318 5,114,394 CTR
w/ve soab(a): K5NA HP 1987 444 2,646,684 Central Texas DX & CC
w/ve sosb/15: N5KC (W5ASP) 262 77 60,060

ARRL DX (CW) Contest:

w soab: AD5Q LP 1 1 1 Wanna Bee
w m/s: KR5DX HP 3040 969 7,078,545 TeamCramp.com
sosb/10:KZ5MM HP 2733 920 5,893,520 Texas DX Society

CQ WW 160M (SSB) Contest:

W/VE SO:

KZ5MM HP 580 50 20 93,870
K5NZ HP 128 34 1 9,275

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73,
dale, kg5u

DX Column by

Buzz, N5UR

BHUTAN A5, "The Kingdom of Bhutan has completed the long awaited Telecommunications Act of 2000 which authorizes amateur radio. An international team has been invited by the Ministry of Communications for the initial introduction of amateur radio in Bhutan, May 1-12, 2000. The goal will be to give as many DXers as possible the opportunity for this #2 most wanted country. Initial emphasis will be on the primary bands..... All bands and modes will be active, but after the initial demand has been met, more emphasis will be placed on the low bands. RTTY and WARC bands will be emphasized from the beginning. Later in the operation there will be simplex operation on the higher bands for those without dual VFO capabilities. Three CW, three SSB and one RTTY station will be active around the clock..... Operators include: 9V1YC, JA3IG, JA3USA, JF1IST, K3VN, K4UEE, N0MJ, N1DG, OH2BU, ON4WW, RA3AUU, UA3AB, W0GJ and W3WL. QSL CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT DAYTON!!! I also heard from the horse's mouth that a certain VK9 is planning on either joining or crashing the party as happened at H40. The more the merry in my book. I only have one lone cw QSO with A51PN Pradham in the late seventies, so I'll be in there on this one!

The TX0 expedition has come and gone. They only operated 20-10 meters and ignored the low bands and RTTY except for a few bursts of activity. They were a week late in getting to the island and left a day early due to high seas, but still made over 70K QSOs for this maybe a new one. Seems there are many maps that show land between Chesterfield and New Caledonia which would ruin its chances of becoming a new DXCC entity, but it is still good for IOTA OC-176! If you want to read the information and maps that could scuttle this new one, check out <http://www.media-technica.com/Chesterfield/>

One of the ops, TDXS's own N5KO hadn't had enough so he buggered on down to East Timor where I have worked him as 4W/N5KO on 15 cw and RTTY. He hasn't announced his QSL route yet. So far there must have been at least 7 4W operations (4W6EB, 4W6MM, 4W6GH, 4W6UN, 4W/W3UR, 4W6/VK2QF and 4W/N5KO), all with separate QSL routes. The planned 4W6DX operation fell apart as they would not issue that call to Bernie W3UR who instead operated 4W/W3UR and the other operators all did their own things. Lots of activity on 10 15 20 both SSB and CW, but again little WARC or low band activity, but that will change now that the novelty has worn off on those three bands.

Pratas should start any time now, BQ9P. The Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League (CTARL) announced that a large multi-national team of experienced DXers will be active as BQ9P from Tung-Sha Dao (Pratas Island, AS-110) between approximately 5 UTC on 5 April and 21 UTC on the 12th. The operators will be Dr. Bolin Lin, BV5AF (President of CTARL), Kenny/BV2EW (Vice President of CTARL), Johnson/BV4DP (Vice Secretary of CTARL), Bruce/BV2KI, William/BV2VA, Jimmy/BV4AS, Paul/BV4FH, Chung/BV4ME, Wang/BV5CR, Sky/BV8BC, Teruji/JA1JKG, Leo/K8PYD and Paul/WT8S. Six or seven stations are planned to be operative from two locations on the island. Planned operating frequencies are: 1826.5, 3504, 7004, 10104, 14024, 18074, 21024, 24894 and 28024 KHz (CW); 3790, 7085, 14195, 18145, 21295, 24945 and 28480 KHz (SSB); 14083, 21083, 28083 KHz (RTTY); 14230 KHz (SSTV). QSL via KU9C (Steve Wheatley, P.O. Box 5953, Parsippany, NJ 07054-6953, USA). Donations in advance or with your QSL request will be graciously accepted and appreciated. These can be sent to the DXpedition via KU9C at the above address. On-line logs will be available after the operation.

If you need more, here's my calendar of upcoming IOTAs:

APR4-5 OC-058 FK8KAB/p from D'Entrecasteaux Reefs

APR 7-9 1800z WC6DX CA-10S Santa Barbara I.

APR7-15 AS-new E29DX Koh Nu Thailand

APR8-9 GB5RO Copinsay Island IOSA OR19

APR/MAY SA-027, DIB-46 PW5W (SSB) PR5L (CW) Arvoredo Isl DXpedition QSL PP5LL

APR20-3 ZW8CI Ilha das Canárias (Arquipélago de Caju) 6 ? 80 SSB/CW

SA 072 DIB: 72

APR21-4 SA-NEW AY0N/X 10-80 metres CW and SSB Pinguino Island via LU2NI

APR29-MAY1 OC-NEW T88FW Helen Reef or Sonsorol Islands

APR OC-182 VP6BR DUCIE date uncertain

MAY22-7 AF-NEW Giftun Island SU9DX or 6V0TA

Also, your's truly will speak at the Houston ECHO meeting April 28 with slides from VP2KC H75A and a couple of IOTA operations. See you in the pileups.

Packet Racket

by Jim, N5DC

As Earl stated in his column, the K5LV Packet Cluster has been moved to the area of Rankin Road, and I-45 North. At this writing, the 2 meter side is not working. It appears that RF is getting into the power supply. I put some ferrite chokes on the leads yesterday, but the signal out of the 2 meter rig is not good. I plan later today(Sunday) to put a large storage battery and charger in place of the power supply, and see if that will solve the problem. We are running software, that was last updated in 1996, and is no longer supported. I believe that it is time for TDXS to come into the Windows era, and purchase new software, that is supported, will run under Windows 98, and has many features, that will make for a much better system. It will require the acquisition of a new computer that will run 98, but I believe we can obtain one for little or no cost to The Club. As soon as the Rankin site has proven to be acceptable, we will commence to put up a permanent tower, and start upgrading the whole system. We owe a great deal to George, NR5M for allowing us to use his facilities, and equipment to get this site up and running. I hope that The Club will support our efforts, and in the end, if you do, I believe you will see on of the finest Packet DX spotting networks in existence

Repeater Report

by Jim, N5DC

Our Icom repeater continues to operate well on 2 meters. We have had a rash of intermod lately, that has forced us to use tone access. In case you missed it, the tone is 100 Hz. Earl, N5TU has a great plan, to use an old 220 MHz control receiver, to receive audio from Igor, and then inject it into the 2 meter repeater. This will remove the irritation of doubling with Igor, as he presently does. I believe it will be a welcome to the voice system. Earl has plans also to do a "sweep" of the Dayton flea market for some commercial Motorola gear to replace some of the present radios we are using for Packet, and also for the Igor/220 MHz plan as well. We are still at the mercy of the Building Management people, and are not able to service the antenna system on the 440 MHz repeater. I don't want to stir up a fuss about it, and lose the site, for the 2 meter repeater as well. They already have pulled off of another building, in the Complex, ***all amateur repeaters!*** In view of this, I believe the best course of action is to keep a low profile, and wait for the right opportunity to get the antenna system up and running on 440.

If you have any want ads, to sell or buy Amateur Equipment, please get them to be by the Friday before meeting deadline. I will be happy to publish them on a space available basis. Email to n5dc@arrl.net

Have you checked the expiration date on your Ham License?????