



THE BULLSHEET

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

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Announcements

See the next page for September Meeting

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.

The Prez Sez- de Earl, N5TU

Its September and that means it is time to begin selecting new officers for next year. Nominations will be solicited during the September and October meetings culminating in a ballot that is to be mailed out on November 1st. The offices that will need to be filled are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If interested, have someone nominate you or feel free to nominate yourself.

This month is also a membership voting month and Bruce Meier, N1LN, is being proposed for membership. Please take the time to check a box on the ballot and return it. The constitution requires that ballots be returned from 50% of the voting membership and in recent votes there have been barely enough ballots returned to meet this minimum. I would hate to have to inform a potential member that he wasn't no voted but that nobody cared enough to vote yes, no, or abstain.

Things are ready to go with the Packetcluster

September Meeting

We will be in the Wine Room at the Blue Agave at 6 PM on Thursday September 14th. This nice Mexican restaurant is located at 1340 West Gray at Waugh. Our room is on the Waugh side of the restaurant, the same one we were in the last time. The only restriction that we have is a 20% gratuity for reserving the room. Please keep this in mind when we collect for the meal as all is on one check. Bring your calculator, hi.

The parking lot got full by the time some of us got there last time, so either park across Waugh or on the street on the North side of the place.

Almost time to get a slate of officers ready for next term.

New Member Ballots Go Out! de Madison W5MJ

Get out your pencils, all you active members. We vote on new members quarterly, and September is a ballot month. This time we have Bruce Meier N1LN on the postcard you will be getting in the mail. Bruce is an active DXer and contester, and has almost 300 countries to his credit. Bruce was first licensed as a teenager in 1962, but did not get his own tower up until last year. I suppose we can all relate to that.

Most of you (at least the ones who have gone to meetings this year) have already met Bruce. For those who have not, he day job is the Director of Enterprise Operations Services at Compaq. His night job is working DX and planning for the next contest, whenever it may be. Bruce is a volunteer examiner, is a member of FISTS, NARS and ARCI.

I have already enlisted him for the next foray into XA5T. Because he has assured me that we will have ample electric power there next time, please be sure to give Bruce an affirmative vote. Beside that, we need another 1-land call. (N1TU is the only 1 left on our roster.)

September DX by Buzz, N5UR

The bands are coming alive and so are the Dxpeditions. A52FH is making a splash now and hopefully will provide North America with some low band and 10 meter opportunities. Details at <http://www.multimania.com/cdxc>

ZD9ZM should be showing at any minute for 3 weeks on remote Tristan da Cunha. Check out his web site at <http://www.dxtechnology.com/zd9zm/>

VK6BM is on Browse Island, a new IOTA. They were supposed to put on another new IOTA in a few days, but their catamaran got washed ashore in a gale and they have been unable to get it back in the water. The Australian Coast Guard is watching the situation, but the next real high tide won't occur until the 15th, so they may extend their 3 day

expedition by a bit. They have some food and water. Hope they have been watching Survivor. Check them out at <http://www.qsl.net/vk6cj/>

The Cubans are going all out this month putting all Cuban IOTAs on the air including the remaining CO8OTA group which has never before been activated (expected Sept. 14-16). The real question is how does an American get a QSL out of Cuba. Lots of \$ head south, but few come back!

For those of you who still need East Timor or need it on a new band or mode, a big operation is planned for early October. 4W, EAST TIMOR. Dennis, K7BV and friends tentatively are scheduled for October 8-16th. Their site also mentions that Dennis has recently picked up the license at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The Web page can be found at: <http://www.qth.com/k7bv/timor/>

FR/F6KDF/T Tromelin is over, and I never heard them on 80 or 160, though several fives did get through on 80. Suppose I'll have to wait for next time. If you want to see if you are in the log or look at the photos, try <http://perso.easynet.fr/~f6jjx/menu.htm>

The bands are improving and DX is starting again on both the low bands and 10/12 meters. Fill in those missing band countries now! Don't forget to bring your cards to the meeting for the ARRL bureau. Please remember your QST label! Good DX until next month.

Africa and Dxing by Frosty, K5LBU

On July 1, 2000 my daughters Elizabeth (KA2UCA) and Rachael, along with their husbands Robert and Chris, and myself embarked on an adventure to South Africa. This location was chosen for a several reasons. The first was for me to return to that area for the first time since 1992. The second was to operate from 3bAO. The third was to introduce my sons-in-law to the bark Continent of Africa.

While living in Lusaka, Zambia from 1990-1992, my wife Jeanne and I made many trips down to Johannesburg, South Africa. During that time I was not able to operate ham radio there, as the only radio I had at the time was a Yeasu FT101E. I was 9J2CF in Zambia. She and I were able to visit Kruger National Park on one of our trips, but for one day only. I wanted to spend more time there this trip. Elizabeth and Rachael lived in Southern Sudan back in the early 1980's and visited us in Zambia. It would be a fun experience for them to share with their husbands, too.

So off we went, with one footlocker loaded with an Alpha 76PA amplifier, 17 & 12 meter Dipole, Coax, power supplies, and other radio items. In my suitcase were the ICOM 1C746 and IC706mkII. 80th ICOM radios were for André Van Wyke (ZS6WPX), our safari tour guide. Along with the Alpha 76PA amplifier.

We departed Houston, TX via Continental Airlines to Atlanta for our connection to Johannesburg on South African Airlines. Only one small problem with SAA, one suitcase was slightly overweight. So we switched several pairs of jeans to the carry-on and everything went smoothly from that point on. SAA even let us check the power transformer for the Alpha as it was weighing in at 46 pounds.

Sixteen hours later, our non-stop, jam-packed flight arrived in Johannesburg. We cleared customs and immigration with no problems. Having officially arrived in South Africa, we met up with André.

André drove us directly to Kruger National Park and checked us into our lodge at Berg-en-Dal Camp. As we entered the main gate, we all started looking for the animals. Once at our campsite, the five of us unloaded the van and trailer. I installed the ICOM IC706 Mk in our van immediately and mounted my Outbacker antenna on the roof with 4 very large magnets. The rest of the family got ready for the night game drive.

While driving around in the park, I worked a few stations on 15 meters as ZS6/K5LBU, but I was too busy videotaping the scenery and animals to play radio for too long.

Two and a half days later, we headed out to the Kingdom of Swaziland (3DA0). It was a short drive to the border crossing from Kruger National Park and we all trooped into the tiny building to get RSA exit stamps in our Passports. Then it was back in the van for a whole 5 yards to the Swaziland gate.

Once there, the entire process was repeated for entry into the Kingdom of Swaziland. After this ten-minute drill, we were once again on the open road—destination Piggs Peak and the Highland Inn. André has a 13 meter tower with a Cushcraft A3 mounted at the hotel. We mounted the Alpha-Delta 160-80-40 meter inverted V antenna on the tower at about 30 feet. Then to our dismay, André and I discovered the SWR was over 3 to 1 because the coax on the beam was not working. So off with the old coax and up with the new. Good thing I brought lots of extra coax with me. Now the beam was working great! The only other minor glitch was that at 30' the Alpha-Delta would only work on 40 meters. The SWR on 160-80 was way too high. André and I with the help of my sons in law installed the 17 & 12 meter antenna approximately 20 feet high up in a tree. The antenna loaded up just fine and we were in business.

My room was quickly turned into the station for 3DAOCF and 3DAOEW. After re-installing the transformer in the Alpha along with the 3 tubes from my carry-on bag, the ICOM 746 was *set up*. All the cables ran from the rig to amp to SWR meter to beam. One nice thing about the IC746 is the dual antenna inputs. One was used for the Beam and Alpha-Delta antenna for 40m through the remote antenna switch and the second was for the 17 & 12 meter dipole.

So by 1359 Zulu, the first contact was made on 15 meters. The pile ups started the first station was UA4KWS then JH1WNL then K1IED I am not sure who was the first to put me out on packet but here came the signals as the roar on 15 increased and it was hard to pick out a complete call so had to spread every one out up 5 to 10 please. While I was playing radio, giving quite a few folks a new one on the bands, the rest of the family went off playing

tourist. I gave my daughters the souvenir list and off they went to explore and shop in Swaziland. I was in hog heaven! The first afternoon and night I was only on the air for 5 Hours. I was exhausted and didn't operate for near as many hours as I had planned. I even managed to get Elizabeth (3DA0EW), on the radio for a few minutes.

The next day as the bands opened up I started on 20 meters and then went to 10 meters. At 1030 Zulu went to 12 meters and the first station was R1ANZ after an hour went back to 20 meters then after two hours it was off to 15 meters till it was time to eat supper. After eating it was time for a short rest. At 2100 Zulu I switched to 40 meters and after working stations for an hour I had to call it a night since we were leaving Swaziland in the morning. I managed to squeeze in some airtime starting at 0500 Zulu But at 10am Swaziland time (0800Z) I pulled the plug so we could load up and go. The last station that I worked was ON4VT. Our next stop was Sun City and Pilansberg National Park. At Sun City, we visited the casino and the posh hotels. I actually won at slots 2301~and, about \$30USb. At Pilansberg we saw our first lions.

Our trip was too short but full of wonderful memories. I hope to be able to return and operate even more from South Africa and Swaziland.

Worked the following TDXS folks first was W9DX and then WSBXX both on 15. The next day W5GCX was on 20. Worked several other Houston hams also.

In the short time that I was on the air as 3DAOCF I worked 854 Q's.

In this short time 67 countries were worked.

This is the break down:

16 on 40 meters

21 on 20 meters

1 on 17 meters

48 on 15 meters

22 on 12 meters

35 on 10 meters

Worked 24 CQ Zones, 23 ITU Zones and all 6 cont.

Not to bad for such a short time on the air. I hope to go back during Christmas break from teaching to increase the count on stations and places worked. Also Andre and I plan on putting up a taller tower with a better

beam. We are looking at a tower of about 40+ feet. Although there might be a 70-foot crank up that is not in use we could get.

Would you like to make a trip such as this? It is so much fun to be the other station and control the LIDS. Not only could you operate from 3DA but could include C9 of course ZS is a given. How many times have you wanted to be the DX only to be shot down because there is nothing for the wife or children -to see or do. Well now you can go off to Africa see the Big 5 (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Cape Buffalo and Hippo). Would this not give the rest of your family something to do while you are the DX? Just think they are having a great time and you are playing DX fill you drop. How about going for a contest. 3DA is very rare of these times. CW wow I don't believe any one has ever operated CW in a contest from there. You would be number one. Check out WWW.infozone.co.za/travel.htm