



THE BULLSHEET

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Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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

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Announcements

See the page 4 for the December 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 Buzz, N5UR

Thank you for making me your new President for 2001. We should all thank Earl for the wonderful job he has done over the past year with the help of the other officers. As this is a club, I will be asking for help from various of you during the coming year. Anyone who wants to volunteer for anything, let me know by email or phone at 713-464-6023.

For starters I need someone to takeover the DX column for the Bullsheet who can add some new life following my past four (i think?) years writing this column. One of my weaknesses, that has not gotten better as I approach the half century mark on my next birthday, is my ability to keep names with faces and I apologize now. I for one would like to see us all wear name tags to functions and to put up small photos of members on our web page. Anyone with other hints please let me know!

In 2001 the sunspots will start tailing off so get in your band countries now. It is rumored there will be a Hamvention in Texas this year with a DX forum and TDXS has been invited to help. Again, this will have to be more than a one man job. I also look forward to our entering Field Day after last years vacation.

See y' all Friday. I am looking forward to the holidays and especially the New Millennium.

73 Buzz

DX Report by Buzz, N5UR

DX - Postage Rates Skyrocket

December has no major expeditions unless I missed something. The big news is increased US postal rates starting in January. For the DXer, start putting 34¢ on your SASEs to stateside managers and prepare for postage shock on overseas mail. The old 60¢ rate is going up a whopping 33% to 80¢, but in Clintonista English, this is a decrease as the minimum rate now applies to the first full ounce rather than a half ounce as before. But really, how often does a DXer exceed the old half ounce rate? Almost never. Now get ready for sticker shock - IRCs are going from \$1.05 to an unbelievable \$1.75 each. It is the USPS way of saying we don't want this business any more, so IRCs may fade away in future rate hikes. So send out all those QSLs that have been piling up before the rate increase which takes hold January 7. Happy New Year from the USPS.

Now there are two other threads making the rounds in the DX reflectors, the first being VK0MM/VK0LD who has spent a year handing out Maquarie to the deserving on 30 and 20. He has made his QSLs available at eQSL and supposedly will not issue normal QSLs. Need less to say, these eQSLs will not be accepted by the ARRL or IOTA, which to many renders them worthless for their paper chasing. However, I look at it as an opportunity to get the League to move into the 21st century! Now that it is going to cost nearly \$3 to send/receive one overseas QSL direct, eQSLs seem to make sense. They are no easier to forge than regular QSLs, and the ARRL et al can always checkout the online logs to see if the QSO was there. I often receive QSLs now that are printed by computer and I do not know how the ARRL etc. can tell the difference between an eQSL I print on my printer or a QSL printed by the DX station on his. The only way is if they have the QSL logo! Check out their site at <http://www.qslcard.com/qslcard/> It is quite impressive and most of you will have QSLs waiting there for you! The ARRL says they will begin Beta testing eQSLs next year, but there is a system already working and working well. Please check this out and send the League your thoughts. I know many expeditions will want to do it the old way with donations and that is fine. However, there is a way now to do eQSLs and make donations using a system called PayPal that works with your Visa card and can handle small transactions.

The next thread is DXer of the year, and needless to say VK0MM is not in the running for his operating style or QSL method, but it makes one think. Alan has not accepted any money for QSOs or QSLs and will make cards available online free to all who worked him. What donations were received for his AX0 operation were donated to a children's hospital.

Another well known DXer known by many monikers put on a brand new country and only worked some friends who were scheduled by phone or maybe just showed up in the log? He is in the running yet he made the country available to only one US station and shook up the Honor Roll worse than Don Miller ever could have imagined. This DXer accepts donations and is in the running for DXer of the year. Makes you wonder... My favorite is K4UEE who went to Clipperton, Kingman and other rare spots. Bob has been giving to the DX community since the 70s when I first met him and is DXer of the year in my book.

Next year we will see the return of some major expeditions, with D6 and CE0X starting off the year. The bands have all been open 6-160, though things have been tough on top band and 80. I worked two new ones on 40,

(DX Report continued)

A92ZE and P57M, the latter I suspect is Kim Slim. Thirty has also offered some recent choice bits with some (not me) working AP2NK around our sunrise, but I was able to add YJ VU and 3V on this band in November. Watch the bands at sunrise and sunset for some beautiful DX, much more fun than watching the sky!

Finally, don't forget to bring me your QSLs and mailing labels for the ARRL. I want to get them out before the postage increase.

“The Die Hard DX'er!”

By Clinton Herbert — AB7RG.

THE DXPEDITION:

5:00 AM - Fellow DX'ers arrive. Crawl out of nice warm bed.
5:30 AM - Toss all gear into truck.
5:45 AM - Get gear out of neighbors truck, and put it in yours.
6:00 AM - Get speeding ticket while hurrying to get to the mountains.
7:15 AM - Get to “The Site”, near top of mountain.
7:16 AM - Start unloading gear.
7:20 AM - Get poked in eye with 20M vertical by fellow DX'er.
7:50 AM - Arrive at hospital to get eye patched up.
8:30 AM - Get another speeding ticket while heading up to mountains.
8:45 AM - Arrive back at site. Unload antennas yourself this time.
9:45 AM - Hike up to mountain top. Pass out from exhaustion.
9:50 AM - Wake up to smelling salt, and laughter from fellow DX'ers.
10:00 AM - Put up antennas, and set up rigs.
10:15 AM - Fire up rig, call CQ for half an hour; no replies.
10:46 AM - Hook up coax to rig...
10:48 AM - Realize that finals are wasted in main rig.
10:50 AM - Hook up back-up rig, this time with coax.
11:00 AM - Yell CQ, rare VP8 comes back; antenna falls down...
11:15 AM - Wake up to smelling salt, fellow DX'ers shaking heads.
11:30 AM - Guy antennas.
12:05 PM - See long list of QSO's made by fellow DX'ers.
12:06 PM - Notice rare VP8 in logbook.
12:07 PM - Beat fellow DX'er over head with logbook.
12:09 PM - Restrained by rest of DXpedition team.
12:30 PM - Back to rig for another attempt.
12:35 PM - Nearby lightning strike kills receive. Notice wet pants...
12:36 PM - Look for shelter.
12:38 PM - Find cave!
12:41 PM - Watch antenna get struck by lightning while hiding in cave.
12:42 PM - Wish it was fellow DX'er's antenna, or him that was struck...
12:45 PM - Realize you're not alone in cave...
12:46 PM - Pick up really big rock...
12:47 PM - Mauled by large angry bear.
12:50 PM - Get pulled out of cave by fellow DX'ers.
1:05 PM - Finally get talked into receiving medical treatment.
1:30 PM - Arrive back at hospital.
1:55 PM - Receive series of painful rabies shots, and multiple stitches.
2:30 PM - Get out of hospital and return home.
2:35 PM - “Explain” stitches and eye patch to wife.
3:00 PM - Realize gear is still up on mountain, with bear.
3:01 PM - Wish fellow DX'ers were still up on mountain, with bear..
3:03 PM - Consider taking up drinking.
7:00 PM - Get phone call from DX'er buddies.
7:05 PM - Agree to go on DXpedition again tomorrow...

(All AC6V Items —Copyrighted 1996, 1998)

Directions to TDXS Christmas Party, Friday, December 15, 6:00 p.m. at Chuck Dietz, W5PR's office: I am at 212 Stratford Street in the south part of Downtown Houston, now called "Midtown." Stratford St. runs parallel to Westheimer and is two blocks north. Therefore, I am 2 blocks north of the 200 block of Westheimer, bounded by Helena and Mason at each end of the block. It is an old 1920's house with no sign, but has "212" on the front. From the Southwest Freeway take the Downtown Exit, stay left to the end (Brazos Exit). Turn left at the light, make the first right go two blocks to Stratford, left to 212. From I-10 West take the Studemont exit right to Fairview, left to Mason, right to Stratford, left to 212. From I-10 East take 59 South to McGowen Exit, right 16 blocks to Baldwin, left to "Strafford" (sign is misspelled!) right to 212. From I-45 North take Dallas/Pierce Exit stay on feeder to Bagby, right to Tuam, right to Baldwin (first street), left to "Strafford" (sign is misspelled!) right to 212. From I-59 North take the McGowen Exit, right 16 blocks to Baldwin, left to "Strafford" (sign is misspelled!) right to 212. Chuck Dietz, W5PR