



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

President

Buzz Jehle, N5UR

(713)464-6023 dxer@orx.com

Vice President

Madison Jones, W5MJ

(281)350-4220 w5mj@hal-pc.org

Secretary

Ed Gerber W5GCX

(281)351-4170, w5gcx@fnn.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

Dave Topp, W5BXX

(281)879-9937, w5bxx@aol.com

Repeater Chairman

Earl Morse, N5TU

(281)356-2128, kz8e@wt.net

DX Chairman

Steve Smothers, W9DX

(281)376-9248, cougar70@earthlink.net

Communications Chairman Jim Lane, N5DC

(281)-358-0051, n5dc@arrl.net

Announcements

See page Six for the meeting announcement

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

HAMCOM is shaping up to be a DXers dream for a change and not just budget after Marti agreed to be the keynote speaker. Hotel space is limited and filling quickly, even at the \$129 per night special HAMCOM rate so book your reservations now. The whole program should be elsewhere in the Bullsheet and if not it will be in the next one! Don't forget to sell your raffle tickets, as it is our main source of income.

Also, if you did not mail in your filed day questionnaire, please bring it to the meeting Thursday. TDXS is not going to sit out this year. Dave is ready for TDXS to regain its former glory.

Regarding our TDXS reputation. A French ham has put up a web site listing noteworthy bad QSLers, appropriately called the blacklist. In a casual review I noted three TDXSers on the list, probably more than any other single club. This is not good. TDXS mails bureau cards for free for members, so please answer your cards as many foreign stations need your cards for various awards such as WPX, WAS, and county awards. Please lets not make the honor roll on the blacklist. Check it out at <http://www.dromadaire.com/black-list/1>

FYI the ARRL raised outgoing bureau prices by 33% March first directly in line with the increase in the overseas one ounce airmail rate that went up the same percentage recently. Take note many overseas rates have gone up sharply as well, and \$1 is the bare minimum for most places and not enough for Germany, Japan, French Oceania and parts of South America. Consider sending a bit more or using the WF5E QSL service to get better results.

Prez Sez Continued

Bouvet is behind us, though few five's were able to make it in the log except on 10 and 20 meters. The D68C boys broke the 100,000 QSO mark by over 50,000 QSOs, very impressive indeed. In contrast the 3D2CI Conway reef operation was a complete fiasco and will probably not count for DXCC anyway. Seems the license they posted on the web gave them permission to run 150 watts, and they had the nerve to complain when their 3kw linears went on the fritz along with their generator. Then there was the problem of a tropical storm, and they were never heard on the low bands. I sure hope SM7PKK and friends decide to reconsider and do this rare one right after the tropical storm season!

A second Chesterfield operation will be firing up in late March, and may afford the deserving a chance on the low bands this time. The Pratas boys are making a stop at BV9L to put on a new IOTA before hitting Pratas hard next week. Niger is being activated by some great Italian ops.

A friend and former novice has agreed to speak Thursday on 2D and 3D seismic as it pertains to finding oil and gas in the Gulf Coast. I just hope he doesn't have to log any more wells on Thursday.

Got to run, have a rainy wet and cold Cub Scout outing this weekend so will miss the ARRL. Hope you all give XA5T lots of Qs. See you Thursday and bring your outgoing QSLs.

TDXS Contest Column By Dale Martin, KG5U

Upcoming Contests:

March 2001

Second Class Operators Club: 10/1800Z-10/2400Z

RSGB Commonwealth, CW: 10/1200Z-11/1200Z

Bermuda Contest: 17/0001Z-18/2400Z

Russian DX Contest: 17/1200Z-18/1200Z

VA QSO Party: 17/1800Z-19/0200Z

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB: 24/0000Z-25/2400Z

April 2001

SP DX Contest: 07/1500Z-08/1500Z

Japan Int'l DX Contest, 20-10m: 13/2300Z-15/2300Z

QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party: 14/1200Z-15/2400Z

MI QSO Party: 21/1600Z-22/0400Z

Helvetia Contest 28/1300Z-29/1300Z

FL QSO Party: 28/1600Z-29/0159Z & 29/1200Z-29/2159Z

NE QSO Party: 28/1700Z-29/1700Z

Ontario QSO Party: 28/1800Z-29/1800Z

May 2001

10-10 Intl Sprint Contest, CW: 05/0001Z-06/2400Z

MA QSO Party: 05/1800Z-06/0400Z & 06/1100Z-06/2100Z

CQ-M Int'l DX Contest: 12/2100Z-13/2100Z

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW: 26/0000Z-27/2400Z

Get on and work someone!

Contest Continued

Rumors:

Winter CW NAQP

M/2 LP - W5NN @K5NZ 1529 299 12 457,171 TEAMCRAMPCOM
SO LP - N7FO (KN5H) 726 231 9 167,706 TEXAS DX SOCIETY
SO LP - K5KG 530 194 10 102,820 FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP
SO QRP - KG5U 566 181 10 102,446 TDXS

Winter SSB NAQP

M/2 LP - W5SB 1514 240 12 373,958 TEXAS DX SOCIETY
SO LP - K5NZ 1124 260 10 Y 292,240 TEAMCRAMPCOM
SO LP - W5ASP 664 180 118,260 TEXAS DX SOCIETY
SO LP - KN5H 127 65 2 8,255 TDXS

NA Sprint SSB

HP - K5NZ 320 45 89 109 122 14,400 TEAMCRAMPCOM
HP - W5ASP 280 45 63 105 112 12,465 TEXAS DX SOCIETY
LP - KN5H 147 42 6,174

NA Sprint CW

HP - K5NZ 314 45 81 109 124 14,130 AUSTIN POWERS
HP - N7FO (KN5H) 262 45 68 79 115 11,790 TEXAS DX SOCIETY
HP - W5ASP 221 41 55 66 100 9,061 TEXAS DX SOCIETY
QRP- KG5U 212 42 30 74 108 8,904 TDXS

ARRL DX CW Contest

DX M/S HP XA5T 4914 334 48 4,920,822 TDXS
DX SOSB/10HP ZF1A(W5ASP) 2000 59 23 332,760 TEXAS DX SOCIETY
QRP SOAB - KG5U 858 256 30 645,120 TDXS

CQ 160 CW Contest

SO HP - K5NZ 206 46 4 4 23,450
SO HP - W5PR 57 31 10 2 7,790

CQ 160 SSB Contest

SO HP - W5PR 329 47 10 12 41,838

DX Report by Steve, W9DX

I remember not so long ago, that the daily morning ritual after getting that first cup of java, was to run to the shack, flip the rig on and see what condition the bands were in and what rare DX the morning's gray-line propagation or long path would bring. If you're like me, you still get that first cup of coffee but instead of heading for the rig, you head for the PC to check e-mail, the DX Summit web-site, and maybe check the local DX packet spots. Wow, all this without ever having to turn the rig on! What kind of spot would it take to prompt you to turn the rig on and make a QSO? Have all DX-ers gotten so lazy that they let everyone else do all their hunting for them? Or, is it because we get a little jaded after having earned "Honor Roll" status, or can claim you're worked 'em all except P5? Isn't it still fun to enter a pile up and work DX because you can? Maybe we've forgotten what chasing DX is all about. We've all gotten caught up in the paper chase and the Honor Roll stats, but that should be recognition of DX accomplishments, not the ultimate goal of actually finding the DX, and working it! How do you know your antenna will still works if the P5 actually shows up??? With this in mind, I'm wondering if it would be worth while to resurrect the once famous TDXS "Need-List".

DX Report Continued

Surely by the time a spot hits the packet or internet the pile-up is waste deep and working it QRP becomes impossible. Remember that most often the spot doesn't get posted until the spotter has worked it along with all his buddies. In many cases, the spots are from another corner of the world and have no bearing on what can even be heard here. If enough folks are interested, I'll put together another "Need-List" on an Excel spreadsheet, and post updates to the reflector periodically. Even if you've worked them all, there must be some new QRP or 160 meter band endeavor worthy of your DX talents! How about dusting off that old boat anchor and setting a new DX goal without all that fancy DSP stuff? E-mail me at w9dx@arrl.net or cougar70@earthlink.net, and let me know your thoughts on the subject. For up to the minute reports see the weekly postings to the reflector. Highlights follow:

Bouvet Island, 3Y0C By the time you read this, Chuck will probably be boarding the MV Lance with a new scheduled departure date of March 4th from Bouvet. Current ETA Capetown is March 10th. Problems with pack ice delayed the vessel's original schedule. Our collective hats off to Dr. Chuck for a fine job in spite of the most challenging conditions.

Spratly Islands, 9M0M. Don't forget the first week of March for an operation as 9M0M from Spratly by Sally, KM5EP, Dennis, AF7Y, Jerry, WB9Z, Luis, XE1L, Darryl, AF7O, Dan, NA7DB and Mike, N7MB. QSLs will be handled by K7XN.

Conway Reef, 3D0CI Hit the airways late February with announced shutdown for February 28th. Despite problems with linears, loss of a boat and lots of sunburns, the crew continued to handle the pile ups. For latest news, go to their webpage at: <http://www.kragujevac.co.yu/3d2>

Pratas Island, BQ9P AS-110 – DXNL reports that BQ9P will be QRV March 6-15 on CW/SSB on 10/15/20m. Landing permits are in hand. QSLs will be handled by KU9C.

Bhutan, A5. In a recent OPDX report Charly, K4VUD (a.k.a. A52UD), reported that Kesang, A51KC, a newly licensed ham in Bhutan, is willing to make skeds for 10 meters (where he can only operate SSB) via E-mail. Kesang's E-mail address is:
sophun@druknet.net.bt

Charly recommends to strike now while winter propagation is still active. Any bets that N5MT will be the first to work him locally? How about 10 QSO's with local 10-X members Mike and get him that number?

Mellish Reef, VK9ML. The VK9WI team who bought you Willis Island in May, 2000, are planning mini-Dxpedition to Mellish for about 4 days during April 21-24 for the purposes of planning a full scale operation later this year or early next year. Team members are David/VK4ZEK, Alan/VK4BKM, Peter/VK4APG and Harris/VK4CWT. They will be active on Mellish Reef on 80-6 meters. There will only be one HF station operating plus one 6 meter station. Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 3504, 7025, 14025, 21025, 28025, 50105 kHz

SSB - 3799, 7085, 14195, 21295, 28480, 50145 kHz

For more info, visit their webpage at: <http://www.qsl.net/vk9ml>

Repeater Report by Earl, N5TU

Brent and I spent a couple of hours on the rooftop at the repeater site in the rain Friday afternoon doing some antenna/repeater work. We wanted to be able to bring the 440 machine back on line so we were investigating the antenna problem. Unfortunately we were thwarted at every turn.

The 440 antenna SWR was bad so we were about to check it at the antenna but the gush of water that poured out of the N connector when we disconnected from the antenna made us change our minds. I had brought another 440 antenna so we were going to replace it. However, it appears the hard line is also waterlogged and needs to be replaced.

We didn't have time to mess with the 2 meter repeater but will be prepared to do so next time. We did make a list of things to prepare for that next time.

The 440 machine can be placed on the air quickly with a feedline and antenna. We have an antenna and need 75' of hardline (3/4") with female N-type connectors for both ends.

As for the 2m repeater, it has grown wiry over the years and we plan to eliminate some of the adapters and less than perfect cabling that has wrangled its way into the cabinet as a result of added filters and other replacement cables.

As soon as I can make some room in the garage I will get the equipment that went to the Ham Store over a year (maybe 2) ago. I'll get the stuff tweaked up and either sold or put into use.

More to come as we make things happen.

TDXSERS OFF TO MEXICO. AGAIN!

de Madison W5MJ

Teams of contesters journeyed to XA5T for ARRL DX CW in mid February, and for the SSB 'test the first weekend of March, in conjunction with CRANTAC and the Republic of The Rio Grande Radio Club. As always, a good time was had by all, and the guys provided QSOs for all of The Deserving to get another rare one in the logs. For CW weekend, Bruce N1LN was a first-timer to the Radio Ranch, and managed to keep the rate up with the best of them. The CW team had another great score as a multi single. Juan N5LNU and Rene N5XTP acted as hosts for us once again, and eased the border crossing. OJ K1OJ has a complete report elsewhere in this issue. The crossing had its exciting moments, according to unnamed sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity, though everyone survived (we think).

At the time of the editor's deadline for this issue of the 'Sheet, the SSB team is on the road to Mexico. Old hands Mike K5NZ, Bill W5SB, and Madison W5MJ (for sideband, yet!) are in charge, with XE rookies Joey W5BAK, Gregg W5IDX, Paul W5PF, Bob NX5M and Mike N5XJ making ready for a multi 2 effort. According to OJ, the station is in great shape for a change, and AC power will not be an issue for us, unlike last year's involuntary QRP run.

We hope to have photos at the next TDXS meeting to make the action a little more real. Please plan to attend.

March Meeting Coming Up!

The March TDXS meeting will be held on the 8th at Floyd's Cajun Kitchen, 1200 Durham (one way southbound) in Houston between I-10 and Memorial. We have the back room reserved starting at 6 p.m. Your Fearless Restaurant Reviews have been there a couple of times recently, and recommend it highly. There is a bar for those members who wish to drown their sorrows because of not catching Conway Reef this trip. The program for the meeting will be a quick review of Texas geology. Buzz N5UR has graciously offered to do the program in the event the scheduled geologist is still out on a rig somewhere.

Packet Racket by Jim, N5DC

During the recent CW DX contest, we had Three “lockups” of the Packet Cluster system. These lockups occurred, when someone saw a DX spot on the Cluster, and took that spot off, and then retransmitted it using their own callsign. This is one situation that causes a loop to occur, and the Cluster software detects a loop and “locks up”. Please refrain from doing this, for if the loop occurs when I am not a work, I cannot reset the system, and get it running again. This happened Saturday after I left, and as a result, there were no DX spots all day Sunday. If the loop creator continues to “do his thing”, I won't have much choice, but to place him (or her) on the bud list, which means they will not have access to the system, and can no long lock us up. I am trying to run the system for everyone, and don't want to sound dictatorial, but I have to bring this loop situation under control.