



THE BULLSHEET

Official News Bulletin of the

Texas DX Society

An ARRL Affiliated Club

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The Prez Sez- de Buzz N5UR

Announcements

See page 2 for the May 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.

MAY MEETING ANNOUNCED - CROWDS SURGE FOR PLACE IN LINE!

de Madison W5MJ

The May, 2001, meeting of the Texas DX Society will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Quasimodo's Restaurant, 1983 Welch Street, a couple of blocks east of the intersection of Welch and Shepherd on Thursday, May 10, starting at 6:00 p.m. Welch is about 4 blocks south of Gray. Your Fearless Restaurant Reviewers lunched there recently and found the fare to be well prepared Anglo-Italian, and reasonably priced. The management assures us that there will be separate checks and NO loudspeaker system. The place takes the usual credit cards, and (for those who have trouble adjusting to that concept or who have rather less than ideal credit) cash as well.

Dave Topp, W5BXX, will be leading the discussion on Field Day planning. Considering last year's lack of performance, we should make the effort to put TDXS back on the FD map. For those of you who missed last month's joint meeting with NARS, it was your loss. There was an excellent Power Point presentation by Bruce N1LN on the CW ARRL DX contest in February, and some free flowing, unstructured video footage of the SSB activity in March. Too bad if you didn't take the time to go to that one, since it was one of the best meetings in years. Several of the NARS folks are interested in joining TDXS (though it must be because of the live wire TDXSers who are also NARS members rather than the deadheads who won't drive an extra 10 minutes to try something new), and you missed the opportunity to make some good contacts if you were available but didn't go.

Please show the world TDXS is still a force on the contest circuit. We need to plan this year's Field Day to make a good showing.

DX Report by Steve, W9DX

In the March issue of the Bullsheat I tried to resurrect the now defunct TDXS Need List by asking if anyone was interested in providing their needs. I received a total of 2 responses: one from an out-of-state member, and one from a local non-member who still needs quite a few. The Need List used to work quite well, but I guess everyone now depends on filtered packet spots relayed to their web-enabled cell phones! Accordingly, I'll drop this project for lack of interest. Don't cry if your most needed country shows up and no one calls you!

The ARRL DXCC Yearbook 2000 was received last month, and hats off to all club members whose calls appear in the listings. Since the list is based on submissions prior to October 2000, it does not recognize any credits for East Timor or the Chesterfield Islands. Accordingly, next month I'd like to recognize members with up-to-date ARRL totals for current and total (current + deleted) countries for CW/Phone/Mixed DXCC credits. Please send me your totals by E-mail at w9dx@arrl.net so I can post them in next month's column.

Recently, several members asked for updated list of Houston beam headings for all DXCC country prefixes. This was provided last month via the reflector for headings based on downtown Houston. Although all the data was correct, some of the table cells had a few bugs to be cleaned up. Rather than use more reflector bandwidth, if anyone wants a finalized clean copy with the TDXS logo, drop me an E-mail at w9dx@arrl.net, and I'll send you a copy directly.

In other news, it was recently reported that one of the team members of the IOTA OC-245/Pr DX-pedition to Mursala Island that took place in March off the northwest coast of Sumatra has died after contracting dengue hemorrhagic fever and malaria. All the team members became seriously ill on their way back to the mainland, and the girl friend of YC6JKV died. Our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who paid the ultimate price to give us a new one.

Agalega DXpedition, 3B6RF: By the time you read this, a team of 21 operators should be active from Agalega signing 3B6RF starting May 3rd through May 16th on all bands 6-160m and all modes.

All operations will use standard splits. QSLs go via Kimberly Larson, the daughter of N3SL, at N3SL's CBA: 22 N Hidden Acres Drive, Sioux City, IA, 51108. Online logs should be available each day during the expedition. For daily updates visit the 3B6RF Web page at: <http://www.agalega2000.ch>

Baker and Howland Islands, KH1: Another expedition by the same group that gave you Conway Reef in 2001 is planning an operation from Baker Howland during September/October, or possibly early next year. Baker Howland ranks 46 on the Most Needed List. Team leader will be YT1AD.

Chesterfield Island - TX0C – I hope you were paying attention last month if you needed this one.

By the time this report appears in print the latest operation should be wrapped up by May 3rd.

Activity was on 160-6 meters CW/SSB. Two QSL routes have been reported; but I believe JA1BK is correct. On-line logs are not available.

Falkland Islands, VP8: For those who delight in brass pounding, VP8SDX is active on CW all bands 10 through 160m until about May 8th. QSLs are being handled by GM4FDM.

Fernando de Noronha, PY0, (SA-003) : A familiar name to all TDXS-ers is our former member and past club President, Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV who plans to operate on Fernando de Noronha from May 24 through June 1st, and will be active in the CQWW WPX CW contest. After the contest period, Dennis plans to be active on 6-160m. For those who can't copy 60 wpm in your head, get your code-readers out!

Logs will be available on <http://www.qth.com/k7bv/PY0F>; QSL requests will be handled by KU9C.

Malpelo Island – The planned Malpelo operation last month by HK5MQZ and HK5QGX was cancelled due to transportation problems. Meanwhile, world famous island hunter Pedro, HK3JJH is still portable HK0 from Malpelo. Pedro has been quite active on all bands including 6 meters. Pedro likes to use the typical IOTA frequencies, so look for him on 28460, 21260, 14260 QSX up 5. This is a one man operation, but you should have plenty of opportunity to work him. He told me that he planned to be there through about mid-May. QSL Pedro via N4AA, Carl Smith, PO Box 249, Leicester, NC 28748-0249. Note that Carl's zip code in QRZ is wrong. Congratulations to Evie Lane, W5XYL for working Pedro and reducing the countries on her need list from 2 to 1! Now if that P5 would just show up!

Rotuma, 3D2: Katsumi, JA1NVF, is now active as 3D2NV/R. His length of stay is unknown at this time. He has been very active on 20/17/15/12/10 meters SSB and FM 10 meters. QSL via home call sign.

Western Sahara - Fernando, EA1BT is active as S07BT, from Western Sahara. QSL via EA1BT.

Thanks to ARRL DX Bulletins, OPDX, 425DX, and DXNL. Not much else happening this month in rare DX, apart from a lot of IOTA activity. Check the weekly bulletins I post to the reflector for more details and up to date info. Don't forget the upcoming Lone Star DX Association program during Hamcom 2001 from June 8-10 at the Wyndham Hotel in Arlington. Featured speakers include OH2BH, and ON4UN. Check the website at www.hamcom.org

Register early if you plan to attend the luncheon because seating is limited to 300 guests.

My apologies for not publishing last month's Bullsheet. An unbelievable go-round between Intel, Microsoft, and Kingwood Cable. It was quite an ordeal! ed

Florida QSO Party with Bob, K5WA & John, N6MU

Call: K5WA/m
Operators: K5WA & N6MU
Class: Multi-Op/Mobile/Mixed/Low Power
Operating Time: 20 Hours
Counties Activated: 47

Total Qs: 1108 (118 SSB, 990 CW)
Total Mults: 97 (43 SSB, 54 CW)

Final Score: 407,012 Points

There's nothing like a long weekend roundtrip drive from Houston that covers 3000 miles including 47 FL counties in support of the FQP. This all started a month ago when Hal, W1NN, made a posting indicating he was planning to come to FL for a rental car FQP mobile effort. I volunteered to join him and preliminary planning began. Unbeknownst to me, Bob, K5WA, had recently put the finishing touches on a new mobile setup and was looking for a partner to make a trial run in the FQP. He offered Hal that alternative. When Hal's plans fell through he put Bob in touch with me as a possible partner. The main reason I was interested in going to FL this year was the probable lack of a station here if I didn't and after being top out-of-state scorer last year I wanted to participate. As it turns out I was right. Due to weather, N6NB's mountaintop station that I normally operate from wouldn't be ready by FQP and I would have missed it altogether. After trading e-mails with Bob, someone I had never met and vice versa, we agreed to give it a go. Bob picked me up at the Houston airport on Thursday afternoon and we headed for FL. Our plan was to start as far south as we could get by Friday evening and end up at the edge of the panhandle at contest end on our way back to TX. . We made it to Pensacola that first night and I got a preview of why it was possible to run 28 counties on Sunday like we did. To say Bob is an aggressive driver is an understatement. More about that later. We easily made it to the Miami area by Friday evening.

Bob drives an older Lexus that looks like new, inside and out. It is one of the most comfortable and smoothest riding cars (even at 100 mph!) I've ever been in. He recently installed a FT-100/ATAS-100 combination that allows remote antenna tuning from the rig. It worked flawlessly. We used two computers - one for logging and one for GPS tracking. Using Street Atlas 8.0 software, Bob had pre-plotted a route through 43 counties. The accuracy of the GPS was uncanny and a real asset for a couple of guys who had never driven in FL. You knew if you missed a turn within 100 feet and could easily identify county lines when they weren't marked. We used TR Log and Bob had set up a file for each county that was fully pre-programmed with the proper CW county indicators, etc. Bring on the FQP!!

We planned 20 counties for Saturday that made a big S through south central FL and included many of the "one pass" counties. When 16Z rolled around on Saturday we were on Route 41 going west in CLR from the CLR/DAD county line.

Florida QSO Party Continued

At Monroe Station we turned south on Route 94 to get MON. The map showed it as a gray line which meant it probably wasn't a very good road but we weren't prepared for what we found. It was nice of the Navy to go back to Vieques Island and stop using 94 for bombing practice. Top speed was 15 mph and I thought several of the craters were going to swallow the car. Needless to say we were way behind schedule from the start. We then proceeded to DAD, BRO, PAL, HEN, GLA, LEE, CHA, DES, MTE, HAR, HIG, OKE, MRT, STL, IDR, BRE and ended in OSC which is large and full of city type streets and stop signs that prevented us from getting to POL for our 20th county. After MON the roads were fine, traffic was light and it was a good day. We made 471 Qs, 112 SSB and 359 CW, mostly on 20 meters, for an average of about 25 Qs per county. Conditions on 10/15 were poor and would get worse. One mistake we made was not going to 40 early enough. When we did, we were averaging 40 Qs for the last two counties but it should have started much earlier. Lesson learned. We started in POL on Sunday. At 12Z we thought the rig had failed as there were no signals on any band. It became painfully obvious there had been some type of disturbance that did not bode well for the day. As a result, we made 1 Q on 40 in POL and 6 Qs in LAK, the next of our 28 counties for the day. Great start! Conditions improved somewhat as the morning wore on but it was clear the only productive band/mode was going to be 20 CW. 10/15 were dead as a doornail. We called CQ on 15 CW from most counties with nary an answer. Same for 20 SSB. Where we made 112 Qs Saturday in 19 counties, we made 6 in 28 counties on Sunday. Again, we called CQ on 20 SSB from most counties on what sounded like clear frequencies with nary an answer. This was amazing considering 20 CW was doing just fine. Go figure.

Then the fun began when we hit Interstates 4/95/10 for most of the rest of the day. There were a few side excursions but "pedal to the metal" Bob averaged 80 mph with spurts in the three digit range that I don't even want to think about. I don't know why Floridians love to drive side by side at or below the speed limit so no one can pass but they do it a lot. Bob can only take that for so long. The scariest moment came under those conditions Sunday afternoon when Bob decided to pass an eighteen-wheeler on the right side doing about 95 mph. I thought I was going to leave a deposit in his seat. Anyway, that's how we managed to hit ORA, SEM, VOL, FLG, STJ, DUV, NAS, BAK, CLA, BRA, UNI, COL, HAM, SUW, MAD, TAY, JEF, LEO, GAD, JAC, WAG, HOL, WAL, OKA, SAN and ESC. We hit ESC with 10 minutes left in the contest. The average dropped to 23 Qs per county after the slow start for a total of 637 Qs for the day, 6 SSB and 631 CW.

We know we gave sweeps to K0CIE and W8MJ which pleased us as much as it did them. That's what it's all about. M0SDX topped the most DX Qs with LY3BA right behind. Congrats to them for excellent efforts. After last year, the biggest disappointment was the lack of 10/15 meters. We expected to be busy as one-armed paper hangers with requests for band changes, etc, but there were no bands to change to. Bob got me back to the Houston airport by 1 PM Monday. Thanks for a weekend I'll not soon forget, Bob. By the way, Bob took a lot of digital photos, including one of the speedometer reading 100 mph, along the way and hopes to put them on a website soon. 73...

John, N6MU with Bob, K5WA/m

Pictures from Florida QSO Party



High Speed CW?????



QRZ??

Thanks to All That Came

Bill W5SB

I Really want to thank all of those that came to the April meeting. With the Bull Sheet being out of commission, the word got out and we had a lot of members present. The theater seats 130 and estimates were it was one half to three quarters full. I also was very pleased with the large number that showed up at the Lucky House restaurant before the meeting.

It has been my desire over the years to have more inter-club actives in the Houston area. The closest to that in the past was the planning of Houston Ham Convention after the last event folded at Adams Mark Hotel. Representatives of many area clubs got together to organize the Convention that resurfaced in Humble for a couple of years. I was a part of that group and enjoyed meeting and talking to members from all the clubs in the area.

TDXS and NARS are natural partners since so many belong to both clubs. NARS has become very active in DXing and contesting over the last few years. So let's do it again sometimes.

Jay WX0B (Array Solutions) is still willing to come and do a presentation for us. He had to cancel due to convention commitments this spring but has agreed to come sometime in the summer to talk to us.

Preferably a joint meeting between both NARS and TDXS and other clubs in the area as far as that goes.

TDXS Contest News

By Dale Martin, KG5U

The results of the CQ WPX CW Contest 2000, conducted last May, are out.

Here are a few entries that were spotted in the online-posted listing:

ZF1A (W5ASP), 2529, 713, 4,732,894 (5th DX/7th World, S/O, Tribander/Single Element)
K5MA, 2039, 670, 4,002,580
K5KG, 1903, 724, 3,783,624 (1st USA/5th World, Assisted)
K7GJ (K5RC), 219, 183, 101,748 (19th USA, Assisted)
KG5U, 863, 441, 843,192 (1st USA/7th World)

The 2000 WPX Contest results and 2001 WPX Contest Rules are posted at <http://home.woh.rr.com/wpx/>

The next CQ WPX CW Contest is May 26-27, 2001.

Many TDXS members use, have used, or are interested in using TRLog contest logging software, or they would use it if it were Windows-based. Read on...Larry (Tree) Tyree, K6TR, posted this on the TRLog Reflector a few days ago:

Muscle Shoals, Alabama. 1 May 2001:

Creative Services Software announced today they have entered into discussions with Larry (Tree) Tyree, N6TR to research the feasibility of incorporating both TR Log and Log Windows technology into a next generation contesting program.

“Looking into the future, we’re seeing more and more hams getting into contesting.”, said Rick Ruhl, W4PC, President of Creative Services Software, Inc. “Using the ‘best of’ technology from TR Log and Log Windows, it’s a good base for a next generation contesting program with hooks into our logging program for keeping track of awards and contacts.”

“Partnering with Log Windows will allow the TR Log concept to become available in the windows environment.” said Larry “Tree” Tyree, N6TR, owner of TR Log.

The DOS version of TR Log will still be sold by N6TR and the current distributors. The windows version will be developed, sold, and supported by CSS and its dealer network.

Hams use TR Log and Log Windows worldwide.

Log Windows is owned by SCO, Inc and is maintained by Creative Services Software.

Creative Services Software is at <http://www.cssincorp.com>
TR Log is at <http://www.qth.com/tr>
The Log Windows home page is at <http://www.logwindows.com>

Windows is a Registered Trademark of Microsoft Corporation

Questions and Answers about the CSS and N6TR press release:

Q: Does this mean that the DOS version of TR Log is dead?

A: No. The DOS version of TR Log will continue to be updated and enhanced just as it would have without this agreement. TR Log for DOS would only die if everyone decided the windows version was preferred.

Q: Will Creative Services Software take over the DOS version of TR Log as well?

A: No. The DOS version of TR Log continues to be owned by N6TR.

Contesting by Dale, KG5U Continued

Q: How can I upgrade to new windows version?

A: Details still need to be worked out (after all, we don't have any software yet). The Windows based contesting module will be a separate program from Log Windows (you don't need Log Windows to run the program). The contesting module will interface with Log Windows to allow full data exportation.

Q: Will future TR Log DOS features be exported to the windows version?

How about the other way around?

A: Some features (such as support for new contests) can move very easily from one program to the other. Other features will be more difficult. Essentially, they will be separate programs after the initial development.

Q: Who do I call for support of the windows version?

A: CSS will be supporting the program. There will likely be a separate mail list generated for the windows version, which can be used to ask questions.

Q: Does this announcement explain why TR Log wasn't at Dayton this year?

A: No. K5TR and N6TR previously announced their intention to take a year off from Dayton last August.

Q: Will there be any changes in the distribution of TR Log?

A: None are planned at this time. The TR Log distributors will continue to sell and support the DOS version. CSS will market and support the windows version.

Contest DXpedition Note:

Frosty, K5LBU, reports that he and W5GCX will be going to YN2EJG for CQ WW SSB Contest this October as a multi-single (160-10m).