



# THE BULLSHEET

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## Announcements

**See page 2 for the July Meeting Announcement**

## How to Reach Us

On the World Wide Web: <http://www.tdxs.org>  
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100Hz)  
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](mailto: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

The dog days of summer with noise and little DX. First, congratulations to all of you who put in so much time on Field Day. I wish I could have been there, but my 10 year old son Allen got out of his first sleep away camp that Saturday and I had to be there /5 in Arkansas. I did get to visit Lenny K5OVC and his wife Norma at their home just outside Hot Springs and see the antenna array that always beats me, especially the 4 square on 75!

I must apologize again as I will not be able to make this meeting as I have three days of meetings in New Orleans next week with auditors and partners. You will be having a much better time, though if I am lucky I will get better food! My partner Max K5PP of the Delta DX Association called today to tell me he is back on the air at his renovated (more properly under destruction) 90 year old home uptown. Needless to say the shack is functional before the kitchen, a man after my own heart.

Madison Jones should be thanked by everyone for all the hard work he put into the raffle sales, and now he is going to be running the next meeting. Paul Frantz, W5PF will be giving a presentation on his recent dxpedition to J3. Hope y'all have a great time. If I can get off early I will try for an earlier flight to meet you at the club's IOTA. Don't forget the IOTA contest the last weekend in July. Its a great time to start something new!

## JULY MEETING TAKES YOU TO THE GREEK ISLES!

In keeping with the IOTA theme which seems to have captured the attention of a number of our members, the July gathering of TDXS will be held on Thursday, July 12, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. for dinner at Mykonos Island Restaurant, 2181 Richmond at Greenbriar, a couple of blocks north of Houston's Southwest Freeway. Exit Shepherd and turn north until you come to Richmond, then turn west to the next traffic signal. It's on your left. Your Fearless Restaurant Reviewers tried it out a couple of months ago, and it passed The Test, so bring an appetite and enjoy. Buzz N5UR reminded me that Mykonos is the island QTH of Aristotle Onassis during his lifetime, and the restaurant keeps the theme without having to take a 10 hour plane ride.

July's program will be a first hand rendition by Paul W5PF about the recent Dxpedition he took with Dee Logan W1HEO to J3. Dee is a former Houstonian, but now lives in Ohio. The July/August, 2001, issue of DX Magazine has a written chronicle of the trip, but Paul promises to give us a "tell all" so we will know the **real** story of the trip!

## Contesting by Dale, KG5U

We are ramping up to contest season very quickly.

Field Day, that non-contest event, is behind us. Check out the TDXS Field Day webpage at <http://www.hal-pc.org/~kg5u/tdxs-fd.html> for TDXS pictures and scores).

July Contests:

14-15 - 1200Z-1200Z — IARU HF World Championship

(<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-iaru.html>)

14 - 1700Z-2100Z — Fists CW Summer Sprint, CW only

15 - 2000Z-2400Z, QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint, CW Only.

21-22 - 1800Z-0600Z — North American QSO Party (RTTY) — [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

August Contests:

4-5 - 1800Z-0600Z — North American QSO Party (CW) — [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

11-12 - 0000Z-2400Z — Worked All Europe DX Contest (CW) — [www.darc.de/referate/dx/](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/)

18-19 - 1800Z-0600Z — North American QSO Party (SSB) — [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

September Contests:

9 - 0000Z-0400Z - North American Sprint (CW)

16 - 0000Z-0400Z - North American Sprint (SSB)

29-30 - 1400Z-0200Z and 1400Z-2000Z Texas QSO Party

October Contests:

6-7 - 1600Z-2200Z CA QSO Party

13-14 - 1600Z-0500Z and 1300Z-2200Z - PA QSO Party

14 - 0000Z-0400Z - North American Sprint (RTTY)

27 - 0000Z-2400Z - CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB)

November Contests

3-5 - 2100Z-0300Z - ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (CW)

17-19 - 2100Z-0300Z — ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (SSB)

24-25 - 0000Z-2400Z - CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW)

NOTE: The North American QSO Party contests and the North American Sprint contests are team competitions. If you want to form up and/or sign up for a TDXS Team, send me an e-mail note or contact me by phone to let me know. I need to submit the team rosters before each of the respective contests.

73,

dale, kg5u

## TALKING TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION IS EASY

by Jim, NN5O

Two-meter FM, a ¼ wavelength whip and 50 watts (possibly overkill) are all you need. The ISS, call NA1SS, has been active on 100% of all passes I have heard in the past few weeks. We usually have 4 passes per day: 2 from about 9AM to 11AM and two in the evening, usually with one just before dark and one after dark.

The old days of worrying about Keplerian Element insertion into a complex software program are as gone as dialing into a telephone BBS with your modem. While there are several free Internet sites, which provide ISS location info, my favorite is [www.heavensabove.com](http://www.heavensabove.com). Just go there and follow the intuitive instructions. Every three days, you will get email, which will tell you all about the upcoming passes in local time. They will even highlight the visible passes. If you have not seen the ISS come over on a good pass, you have missed one of life's memorable experiences.

So, back to radio: Susan Helms (KC7NHZ) seems to be the principal astronaut operator and enjoys FM voice contacts. I worked her mobile with my FT-100 (split) on the first call on Field Day Sunday, 11:57 CDT, as the ISS came up from Mexico. I was racing down the beltway in my little blue thing, and she sounded much better than the ailing 96/36 repeater these days. "NN5O, you are 1 Alpha Battery from NA1SS" is how it went, since she was pretending to be a Field Day emergency station. Naturally, I sent off a QSL later that day to:

ARRL Headquarters  
ARISS QSL Expedition-2  
225 Main Street  
Newington, CT 06111-1494 USA

As a lazy guy without much exotic equipment, I have been able to develop some sensible rules after dozens of MIR QSOs before the ISS. First, plan your ISS pass. To make sure you have entered your location and time info into the [www.heavensabove.com](http://www.heavensabove.com) database, try listening on the downlink of 145.800 a time or two. If you cannot hear packet or voices on a rubber duckie, the ham gear has been turned off or you are screwed up. High elevation passes (nearly overhead) will obviously give good initial results, but you will find that the typical low angle of radiation vertical antenna will lose "the bird" above about 30 degrees and gain it on the way down. So, my personal experience is that you want passes with elevation of at least 10 degrees but less than 30 for the best luck with a vertical. FM voice contacts seem to occur during the morning passes, with the evening passes involving the unattended packet repeater. At least, you can prove you hit the "ISS Machine" if your UNPROTO packet is returned.

So, you read this far just to find out what the frequencies are, didn't you? I didn't tell you earlier because I know hams fire up brand new expensive rigs without reading any directions. Well, so do I!

## ISS Continued

Here are the freqs:

All ISS Ham down links are on 145.800 (VOICE AND PACKET)

US FM voice up: 144.490

US FM packet: 145.990

You can program in your VHF with its semi-complicated scenario, or (as I did) just do a simple SPLIT with your A/B VFO with one of the new go DC to Light rigs.

Next time, I may do a little on ISS packet, but it is pretty boring right now.

If you do not work the ISS, you are not trying very hard. And, of course, Dale Martin, KG5U, knows more about this than I ever will, but I was just asked to do this little ditty.

## Field Day, by Mike, N5MT

Here is the breakdown for TDXS FD by band and mode:

Total CW QSO's 1662 X 2 pts/each = 3,324pts.

Total Phone WSO's 1825 X 1 pt/each = 1,825 pts.

Total QSO points 5,149

Power mult 2 for using 150 watts or less = 10,298 pts.

Bonus 100% emergency power times 2 = 200 pts.

Bonus Media publicity = 100 pts.

Bonus W1AW FD Msg = 100 pts.

Bonus Natural Solar Power QSO's completed = 100 pts.

Total Bonus 500 pts.

Total score is 10,798 pts.

Breakdown by band follows:

80 M 20 Phone QSO's

40 M 254 Phone 475 CW QSO's

20 M 558 Phone 855 CW

15 M 540 Phone 251 CW

10 M 164 Phone 81 CW

6 M 246 Phone

2 M 43 Phone

Total 1,825 Phone 1,662 CW

The SSB station was setup in a nice motor home brought up by Jim N5DC and provided by George DeMontrond NR5M. SSB station captain was Mike N5MT using a Yaesu FT1000D feeding a Hygain TH6DX triband beam at about 45 feet. A two element 40 Meter Cushcraft beam was at about 50 feet on the same mast as the TH6. Ropes were used to turn this stack with some problems as they were not balanced on the mast. A backup radio was setup to provide Solar power contacts using a battery into a Yaesu FT100 for the SSB station if needed. A wire antenna provided by Frosty K5LBU for 160-80-40 was pulled up between the VHF station tower and the SSB tower using a pulley system to keep it about 35 ft off the ground. No signals were heard on 160 and only 20 contacts were made on 80 phone with this trapped dipole antenna. The VHF station was setup by Dave W5BXX running a 6 meter radio into a 6 element yagi and rotator was at about 40 feet on a tower at the back of his motor home. Six opened up and he had 246 phone contacts which were all free contacts as the VHF station does not count for an additional station. A smaller 30 foot mast next to the motor home was used with a 4 element quad by Frosty K5LBU for the 2 meter antenna for VHF phone contacts. Frosty made 43 contacts with his station. There was one mishap during the antenna mounting for the SSB station. A rotator base plate broke just after the large 40 meter antennas were put on the mast but before the stack was tilted up. The rotator is ok, I think, it needs a bottom plate. There were no digital contacts and no packet contacts made at FD. The Solar power contacts were made on 15 meters at about 1700 utc sunday using the backup Yaesu FT100 radio. The storage battery that fed the FT100, had been charged by a Solar panel the previous month before FD. The CW captain was Dale KG5U and that station was setup in Bob W5SJS motor home. They used a three element triband beam, a two element 40 meter beam and a twenty monobander. They had at least two problems with feedlines or antennas that gave them problems. They did not use any rotators on their two towers.

## **DX Report by Steve, W9DX**

The regional DX event of the summer will surely go down in history as Ham-Com 2001 which was held in Arlington, Texas June 8-10, 2001. This was a well organized and attended event with special kudos to the Lone Star DX Association for hosting a fantastic DX luncheon, hospitality suite, and DX forum. Many TDXS members attended the event, and we really need to make a major contribution next year if we expect to keep bringing such top-gun DX speakers such as Martti Laine-OH2BH, and John Devoldere-ON4UN to our area. I know our treasury was low when they asked us to help, but as DX-ers, we really have no excuse for not helping out our neighbors to the north in sponsoring this special Texas event. Martti was the special keynote speaker at the DX luncheon, and thrilled the packed audience with his concept of Missionary DX-peditoning that has brought us such operations as ZA1A, XZ1A, P51BH, and BY1DX.



### **Martti Laine – OH2BH answers questions as K7BV looks on**

Martti explained that it was true missionary work to bring some countries back from “no radio” status. Countless trips, demonstrations, legal work, writing of regulations, and training classes were necessary to bring us several new ones. The burning question on everyone’s mind was: “When will the next P5 operation begin?” Martti explained that the North Koreans have learned from the Americans the concept of frequency auctioning, and the next operation may be really expensive, but be patient. Negotiations are still underway. Martti spent extra time greeting a group of young radio amateurs from the east coast who were enthralled with the slide presentation of exotic places. Hopefully this new generation of young hams will get bit by the DX bug and help lower the median age of DX-ers. Out of a crowd of over 300 at the luncheon, there were very few DX-ers under 50 years old. As an added sideline, proof that DX-ing is a function of longevity, the high DXCC credit total to beat was 384. It was interesting to note how many old timers were still standing as the DXCC countdown (or count-up if you will) reached over 375.

One of the favorite presentations later that day was “Top Band DX-ing” and Antenna’s for Top Band by John Devoldere – ON4UN. John’s simple and clear explanations on radials, and ground shields finally made sense for a lot of us. It took an engineer to make all the formulas and applications seem like common sense. It was an interesting hour. John’s books sold quickly at the convention, and he was quite busy autographing each copy.

## **DX Report by Steve Continued**

It was also great to see Dennis Motschenbacher – K7BV again. Our former member and ex-TDXS president is alive and well and globe trotting on business and DX-ing along the way. Dennis was showing his East Timor videos in the hospitality suite. His latest operations were Market Reef and Fernando de Noronha. Dennis is working on another DX-pedition as this is being written, but he can't say where just yet. He did confirm that it is in the top 25 most needed DXCC countries, and it should be no problem working it for Houstonians.



**John Devoldere, ON4UN**



**Holding shirts l-r: OH2BH, ON4UN, and W3WL**

## **DX Report by Steve Continued**



### **ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP was the Ham-Com keynote speaker.**

I had the chance to chat with Wes Lamboloy – W3WL of D68C fame at the Lone Star DX Association hospitality suite. Wes was one of the operators on the recent world QSO record setting DX-pedition to the Comoros Islands. Wes confessed that having monobanders and kilowatts on each band is the only way to go. Some of Wes' other DX adventures have included XR0Y, VK0IR, and A52A. He is a pleasure to talk to, and if you have the chance to meet him, ask about his adventures.



**DX hospitality suite: N5UR & XYL**

## **DX Report by Steve Continued**



**Bob (N5ET) and Linda (KE5TF) Walworth**

Ham-Com and the DX related activities were wonderful this year. If you missed it, make plans to attend next year, and support the groups that work so hard to bring a great program to our doorstep. Without the financial support of the DX community these events cannot take place. The Lone Star DX Association put on a great show that will be hard to beat. The quality of speakers, timeliness of program material, technical discussions, DX forums, and an almost endless stream of door prizes made this DX-er smile all the way home. It was a memorable weekend indeed!