



THE BULLSHEET

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Texas DX Society

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Announcements

**SEE PAGE 4 FOR THE 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

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

I look forward to meeting with you all Thursday. Hope my plane is on time as last month I got there in time for our Paul Frantz, W5PF's presentation on J3, but I was too late for dessert as they had sold out of baklava! Too bad more of you didn't make it as the food was excellent by all counts and hopefully Madison will do as good this month. I have scheduled my flight earlier this Thursday so I will be there for 6! Don't forget to bring your bureau cards; it's time to send another load to the ARRL. The summer doldrums are upon us, and no major expeditions on tap, but many IOTAs are on the air as well as vacation island operations in the US, Canada, Ukraine and many other countries showing up. There have been some long path opening to northern Europe on 20 over the South Pole, as well as some late night early morning opening on 15, so tune around and fill those logging programs.

One thing we all need to do is bring some potential new members to meetings. Lots of our hobbies are graying, and we need new and active blood to keep things moving. I went to a stamp show this weekend and I was one of the young guys! How about a contest to see who can bring in the most new members this year?? That's it from this end. See you Thursday and bring your cards.
73 Buzz N5UR

DX Report by Steve, W9DX

QSLing – It ain't what it used to be!

Well the summer DX doldrums are upon us once again. Not much exciting to report on upcoming DX-peditions. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletins that I post to the reflector for up to date happenings. It's a good time now to get that antenna work done before the fall contest season, and catch up on QSLing duties. TDXS still handles outgoing club member cards through ARRL and picks up the cost. You must be a League member for this service. Remember to bring all your cards to the meeting, and Buzz Jehle will forward them. Remember to sort all cards alphabetically by parent country prefix. That means putting the 7J cards together with the JA cards, and the M0 cards together with the G cards. When sorting countries with multiple prefixes, keep that country's prefixes grouped with the parent prefix in your alphabetical stack. Using a rubber band to subgroup countries will help the sorters accomplish their task much faster, and keep your oddball prefix cards from going astray. You'll also need a current QST mailing label together with your cards. If you don't want to deface your magazine tearing the label off, try scanning your QST mailing label. Then crop the image with any photo-editing program and save it to disk. Now you have a ready to go label anytime you hit the print button! The League will also forward responses to SWL reports for countries handled by the service. About 260 countries are currently served by the outgoing QSL service. Remember that the outgoing QSL bureau will not forward cards for the following DXCC countries: A3, A5, A6, D2, J5, KH0, KH1, KH4, KH5, KH7K, KH8, KH9, KP1, KP5, P5, S7, SU, T2, T3, T5, T8, TJ, TL, TN, TT, TY, V6, VP2E, VP2M, XU, XW, XZ, YA, ZD9, ZK1, 3C0, 3C, 3W/XV, 3X, 5A, 5R, 5T, 5U, 5V, 7O/4W, 7P, 7Q, 8Q, 9N, 9U, and 9X.

It wasn't too long ago that I started getting instructions to QSL via www.eQSL.cc which had me scratching my head for a few moments. This was coming from mostly PSK contacts and the digital crowd, but a number of other modes were quickly following suit. If you haven't checked it out yet, this is a free electronic QSLing service. The first time I visited their website, I was pleasantly surprised to find over 50 QSLs waiting for me. Getting registered is simple and easy, and you can design your own outgoing electronic QSL from their pages. If you want a custom design you only need to send them a donation in any amount and you can use your own shack picture or antenna farm picture for example. Although most awards programs do not yet accept electronic QSLs their acceptance won't be too far in coming. Whenever standards for digital signatures and certificates can be agreed, paper cards may be a thing of the past. Answering incoming cards is simple and easy. With only a mouse click or two, the incoming card is answered with your version, and the incoming card is moved to your archive file. If you want something to hang on the wall, just hit your print key. If you don't to keep anything in archive, just delete it and you're done. You can also upload all those contest logs and cut your bureau QSL duties down to size. Here's an example of an electronic card received from VU2WAP, and my outgoing template.



What a great way to answer all those contesting QSLs without spending any postage, card costs, contact labels, sorting time, and club forwarding! I think I still prefer the real thing in my hands, but as postage costs continue to increase, this may be the way to go. At least no more delays of months or years waiting for your bureau cards to arrive. As long as the system can be made relatively cheat proof, I think it will work. At least it's a start in the right direction.

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To: xxxxxx This confirms our 2-way SSB QSO
Date: mmm dd, yyyy Time: hh:mm UTC
Band: xx UR Sigs: 59+
TNX FER FB QSO OM ES PSE QSL VIA EQSL.CC right 2000 eQSL.cc

In a another timely move, the ARRL just announced that it is working with most of the major contest logging software vendors to support the electronic contact verification. The “Logbook of the World” logging software modules are being developed as part of the Trusted QSL open-source project headed up by Darryl Wagoner, WA1GON. Once finalized, the log data generated by DX-peditions, contestors, and even individuals will result in quick QSO credit for any number of awards offered by the ARRL, and eventually other organizations as well.

The ARRL program is expected to be complete by the middle of next year . The data repository would accept authenticated data directly from logs submitted via the internet. Once established it is hoped that the program would also allow database look-ups. This program will certainly speed the process of award attainment while cutting league costs considerably. For additional information, visit the ARRL website and go to the “Trusted QSL” web link.

I only wonder now what Bob and Linda Walworth will do without DXCC cards to check! Sorry guys, but it looks like you’ll have to face yet another retirement party!

In the coming months, I plan to write about DX-ing with modes other than our favorites: phone and CW. It’s time for most you old codgers to put some excitement back into DX-ing and try something new. For the last month or so I’ve been having a ball with PSK and SSTV and will share some thoughts on this later.

August Meeting Announcement!

In order to placate our members of Italian descent (many of whom are becoming restless and somewhat bad tempered, presumably from lack of pasta), the August meeting of the Texas DX Society will be held starting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 9, 2001, at Tutto Bene (which means Gud DX in Italian) Restaurant, 4618 Feagan, in Houston's Heights District. Feagan is about 2 blocks north of Memorial at a traffic signal, and the restaurant is a block east of Shepherd. This is the home of the famous Exploding Tomato! NN5O promises to be in attendance to demonstrate his technique. Don't miss it.

Dxpedition to St. Pierre and Miquellon in the works

By Madison W5MJ

Always wanted to go somewhere and give Qs to The Deserving without having to risk getting beri beri or having your shrunken head on a pole outside the hut of a tribal chieftan? Well, here's your chance to go somewhere not too far away but still rare enough to generate big pileups. Your TDXS Dxpedition Planning Committee has come up with a proposed trip to St. Pierre and Miquellon for CQWW SSB in October of next year.

St. Pierre and Miquellon are two islands off Newfoundland's Grand Banks a few miles, but still a little bit of France in North America. Joey W5BAK and Madison W5MJ are planning a fact finding trip up there on September 20 for a few days in order to scope out the territory. The present plan is to make arrangements to conduct an all band, all mode operation for the week preceding CQWW SSB in October, 2002. Though there are about a dozen resident amateurs in FP, they are infrequent visitors to the bands. This year there have been fewer than 50 spots on the DX cluster so far, and the occasional solo Dxer who has traveled there has had all the action one could want. Europeans always go nuts for FP, it seems, so we thought we could join in the fun.

We anticipate having a team of about 10 people, so see W5MJ or W5BAK for details, and mark your 2002 calendar now!