



THE BULLSHEET

Official New Bulletin of the
Texas DX Society
An ARRL Affiliated Club

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July

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

July Meeting: Thursday July 18th, 7:00 PM at the Chapelwood United Methodist Church, 11140 Greenbay St., Houston, 77024. Pre meeting dinner at Goode & Co. I-10 & Campbell Rd. at 6:00 PM. Meeting Details on Page 2.

How to Reach Us:

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.org>

On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz)

On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)

On Packet: Connect to **K5DX-2** via **TDXS71** or **ROSE**
on 145.71 MHz.

email address: k5dx@tdxx.org

TDXS Reflector: To subscribe to the TDXS reflector, go to

<http://moonbounce.n5iq.org/mailman/listinfo/tdxx-list>

The Prez Sez - de Buzz, N5UR

(The Prez has been travelling, but he has set up the meeting location and will have more info before the meeting date. Come out and support the new meeting format, I think you will find the scheduled meetings very interesting and worthwhile. - ed.)

TDXS Meetings - Time for a Change?

Bill Denton W5SB

In order to help bolster monthly meeting attendance, we have created a series of what I would consider an interesting and informative line up of speakers. They will speak on topics of interest in our hobby from Amateur Radio to scientific studies of the solar system and how it relates to Ham Radio communications. With the number of members at our meetings getting so small, we felt it necessary to create this sort of atmosphere to help build up attendance. I have talked with TDXS President Buzz Jehle and Madison, W5MJ, on my thoughts of bringing in interesting people to speak to us. They both agree this needs to be done.

Over the past years I have been the program director at NARS. This year I was asked to return to my previous duty. At NARS we have about 200 active members and we get about one third of our members to attend our monthly meetings. We have had as many as 80-90 in attendance. We feel that a good program with an interesting topic is a necessity to get people to the meetings.

During the next few months, we will try to provide the TDXS meetings with quality speakers and programs. The way to tell if this project succeeds will be measured by your attendance.

The July meeting is by George Edwards, K5VUU, details below.

In the future programs will include:

Mike Waite AD5IX, Director of RF Engineering with Cingular

BJ Lowery WB5PKD Houston Transtar

Dr. Pat Reiff KD5IZK Astrophysicist from Rice University

Marty Kirkland WA5TMN Chief Engineer at Channel 8. Will talk on the current state of Digital TV and HDTV

July Meeting

7:00 PM, Thursday July 18, 2002

Chapelwood United Methodist Church, 11140 Greenbay St., Houston 77024, Copeland Center Room 5

The July program will be presented George Edwards, K5VUU. George has three basic passions in Ham Radio: Texas QSO Party, DX and Mobile Antennas. Like a lot of us, George was licensed back in the '50's and then went inactive for many years. He operated AM mobile back in the 75 meter 3.855 days.

George was raised in the Beaumont area. He served on active duty in the US Army from 1957 to 1959 as an enlisted man. He got his degree at the University of Texas in 1962. He went back into active duty as an officer in the US Army Security Agency where he was stationed in Asia and achieved the rank of Captain and ASA Operations Officer.

July Meeting (contd.)

After this tour of duty, George worked for Caterpillar, Warren Oilfield Services and, in more recent years, Compaq Computer in the area of Technical Training, Start-ups, Plant Management and Process Improvement Consultant. He is currently doing consulting work. George, K5VUU, an Amateur Extra Class, has many Ham Radio awards. His goal is to have 300 confirmed by the end of 2002 and the DXCC Honor Roll. He has done all this in just a few short years after becoming active again.

George will speak to us on 3 basic topics.

1. Texas QSO Party update. He has coordinated TQP since NARS took it over a few years ago. He has done a great job in helping put TQP on the map again.

2. Mobile antennas in general

3. His experience in building and using "Screw Driver Antennas". (He is also a skilled machinist)

It will be interesting to hear George describe what he considers the best all round antenna system for mobile operation. You may be surprised.

George is an accomplished public speaker. Come out and give him your support.

Packet Racket by Jim, N5DC

As I write this, Earl, N5TU has our Motorola radio in the Hospital. We had a transformer right outside the building hit by lightning. It took out our phone system, and I think did some damage to the Motorola. I am presently using an Icom of my own, which seems to be working well. The same storm locked up the Rose Hill node in transmit, and it took a couple of days before we could track it down. I am expecting a KPC-3, that I purchased, any day now, and our UHF link will be back on the air. I have Igor patiently waiting to appear on our UHF repeater, as soon as we can get the ID changed. The Cluster has been working better, and users don't see it but when we loose our primary connection to AB5K via telnet, we automatically switch to N5IN. The software goes out and checks every 2 minutes and if AB5K is not there, it automatically connects to N5IN. It has done so several times in the past 2 weeks, with the flooding over in the Austin area, causing several connect problems.

DX Report by Ken – AB5A

Hello TDXS'ers. I include an excerpt from the ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin 29 by From Tad Cook, K7VVV:

“Conditions are still a bit in the doldrums, with solar flux and Sunspot numbers fairly flat. This week average daily sunspot numbers were up over 24 points and average daily solar flux was down nearly 12 points, when compared to the previous week. Of course this seems low compared to the great conditions last fall, but the numbers are slightly higher than they were for the same week last year.”

With this kind of news, the Dxing tends to be a whole lot more sparse. It requires a lot of patience and perseverance to make DX contacts. It also focuses all the operators who do make contacts into the same time period. This can make it very crowded when there is an opening and DX is calling.

ET3PMW, Ethiopia Paul Wyse, W4PFM is now QRT. He had been working many low band and especially top band contacts into NA. He was also very active on RTTY & PSK31. QSL via W7KEU.

CY9DH, St. Paul Is. Was active on all bands between and including 40M and 2M. This was to be primarily a 6M Dxpedition but 6M did not afford very many openings so the result was lots of HF contacts. They worked “both” modes: PHONE, CW, RTTY & JT44. The upper bands were particularly difficult because of the solar conditions. There was a brief opening on 10M towards the end of the operation. Mike, N5ML & I worked this station on backscatter. Both of us had our antennas pointed SE. There were some stations on the east coast who worked a 6M contact. Also a few 2M contacts were completed. I was somewhat surprised that we got completely skunked here in EL29 because just a week earlier I worked FP/NA1CW on St. Pierre on 6M CW. I guess I was hoping against hope. QSL via W7XU

5W0DL, Western Samoa IOTA OC-097 was active early July on RTTY and PSK31. Not too rare but also not heard on RTTY often. QSL via K8AA

4N6IOTA, St. Nicolas Is. IOTA EU-0136 has been on the air July 6-12. QSL via YU7DR

TM4X, Aix Is. IOTA EU-032 has been on the air July 6-12. QSL via F5KFL

TO8CW, Les Saintes Is. IOTA NA-114 will be on the air till December. QSL via F8CMT

6M Sporadic E (Es) The June/July Sporadic E (Es) season has been active this year. The FP/NA1CW contact mentioned above was accomplished on a double hop Es opening. Also worked were 2 Oregon stations in CN82 on a double hop Es. JT44, there it is again!! What is it? It is a digital FSK mode used for Weak Signal VHF/UHF tropo, Meteor Scatter & EME contacts. Last week I worked KD5IUG in EM42 for the first contact on this mode. The best thing about this QSO for me was that it was with a station in Mississippi, State #50 on 6M. When was the last time you got excited about a QSO with Mississippi?

If you would like to learn more go to: <http://www.vhfdx.de/wsjt>

This exciting mode written by Joe Taylor, K1JT has brought EME within reach of stations with moderate power and antenna gain.

A Hundred others, DX These are the one that I failed to mention for lack of omniscience. You can help me with these. I most likely to mention stuff I'm chasing so keep me posted of what your chasing and I'll be certain to share it. DX is out there!!! Go get it, wrangle it and tell me about it.

73,

Ken Eckel, AB5A