



# THE BULLSHEET

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

March  
2003

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

## The Prez Sez - de Madison, W5MJ

Wow, it's March already! February went by rapidly, probably because of the ARRL DX contests make the 28 days seem even shorter. Even without those extra days, however, and without having a business meeting, we managed to accomplish things. Look for the Mexico news elsewhere on these pages. Both teams are apparently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place world wide, behind stations from the Caribbean. As always, we are already planning improvements to the station to permit us to move into the top spot.

Several of the members have pitched in to get jobs done that have been languishing for some time. Ken AB5A has taken on the responsibility for the membership roster for Earl N5TU (who has moved to Dearborn with the specific task of getting rid of that annoying hash that many new Ford pickups seem to have), so keep an eye out for it. If your listing is incorrect, you should take a minute to correct it so Ed McMahon and the Prize Patrol can find you to deliver the goods. We are also making strides toward getting the web site up to date. We should soon have an archive of all the old issues of the 'Sheet, so if you haven't seen your name in these pages for some while, you will be able to dial up issues from a bygone era and bask in the glow of past glories. If you have never had your name in the Sheet at all, please see me so we can give you an additional duty, which will be duly noted on these pages!

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## TDXS Calendar

### Upcoming events of interest to TDXSer's

**March 12, 8:00 to 10:00 PM Local, Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase**  
**March 29-30 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB**

## Monthly Meeting Announcement

**March Meeting -Thursday March 13  
7:00PM Tracy Gee Center**

Dan Parsons, President of the Houston BBB will speak to us. It will be very interesting.

The Tracy Gee Center is on the east side of Westcenter St., which runs south from Richmond and is the first street inside Beltway 8 at Richmond. See you there....

**Frosty, K5LBU**

## **Tower Party**

Sunday March 16th is a tower party at my qth. I already have several volunteers, but all help will be greatly appreciated. Directions to my home are: Take 59 North pass under FM1960.. Exit Kingwood Drive(about a mile north of FM1960). East on Kingwood Drive to my street Chestnut Ridge(Exxon Station on the right at the corner). Turn right..at the traffic light, go south 10 blocks to stop sign. Turn right, go 150 yards to next stop sign, turn left, I'm about 8 houses down on the left,(1602 Chestnut Ridge) Telephone 281-358-0051.

**Jim. N5DC**

## **2003 Raffle Announced – TDXSers go nuts!**

It's that time again, so limber up the 'ol checkbook and get ready to buy, sell or trade raffle tickets. We have acquired a Yaesu FT-897 for give-away at Ham-Com to the lucky winner on June 21. The 897 is so new that you may not even be aware of it. It's Yaesu's (eventual) replacement for the FT-100D, and has all the features of the -100 but for even more money in a smaller package. My inspection of the new rig showed an even larger tuning knob and smaller screen, but the performance is not diminished even though the entire package is somewhat smaller than before. You can get all the specs at [www.yaesu.com/amateur/ft897.html](http://www.yaesu.com/amateur/ft897.html) , and you will soon be able to buy tickets for a chance at this fine transceiver for much less than the cost of a new one.

This is our only fund raising effort for the year. It goes without saying we need a good supply of funds every year to buy/repair our gear, pay for insurance and postage, and to supply the needs of our amateur community. Just yesterday I received the annual billing for the club's liability insurance, and that was \$325 all by itself. Last month we shelled out a good sum for repairs to the repeaters, and made a donation for the use of the Radio Ranch in Mexico. Though the various TDXS members have been very generous with donations of time, talent, and equipment over the years, it does cost a considerable sum every year to keep it all together. Here's a chance to get something excellent for a small fraction of what one would cost, and you will be able to feel good about keeping TDXS alive and well. Give me a call or send an e-mail to me to let me know how many to send you! Buy some before they are all sold.

**de Madison W5MJ**

## **Monk Apollo needs your help!**

Dear Friends,

I would like to demand your help to a problem that I confront. Recently, in the new regulation that made the Ministry, because the men that work there don't know that Mount Athos is a special DXCC-country, give the "SY" as a special call sign to everyone who wants it. So there is a confusion to the amateur radio world, who believe that those who use this call sign are from Mount Athos. Many Greek amateurs sayed their views to the Ministry, but they ignored them. I would be grateful if you send a message to the Ministry (Email: [yme@otenet.gr](mailto:yme@otenet.gr)) asking them to stop issuing the "SY" as a special prefix, and give it exclusively to Mount Athos, the "Garden of Virgin Mary" I send you my best wishes.

God Bless You.

Monk Apollo — SV2ASP/A — 73

**de Jim N5DC**

## **The Prez Sez from Page 1**

The Winter Dinner was a great success, a rich experience for those who went. We certainly owe a debt to Melanie Bradford, who once again this year set it all up at the Greenspoint Wyndham Hotel even though she and Bill could not attend. Thanks, Melanie, for your good work. Next year it will be at the same place, so make your reservations now for the first weekend in February. There were some who complained that the \$35 price tag was too high, but it's only about **83¢ a month** more than in years past, people, so loosen up a little, starting now. As always, there were great door prizes given away, but you had to be present to win. Too bad if you weren't there.

The big news this month is our repeater system. Brent NT5D has made a very generous contribution of equipment to TDXS, which now owns all the of necessary items to get the 440 repeater back on the air. Many thanks, Brent. Glenn WB5TUF has spent much time getting things perked up again for the first time in a number of years on both repeaters, and will soon have Igor back to 440, reporting the DX news from the T-1 line but limiting it to reports from 5 land so we can see where the DX is available for us. For those who have been staying off 2 meters because of the poor signals and coverage, please consider coming back on. During drive time there is usually a good turnout, with a wide variety of topics for every taste. The 440 repeater is still not fully operational, but will be soon. Both repeaters and the packet system are being relocated to a new site west of the Galleria. We have already been granted the space on the rooftop, 20 floors up, and there will be greater coverage for the repeaters. The packet cluster will be more centrally located soon.

The TDXS radio raffle effort is getting underway, and I anticipate having tickets in hand sometime soon. This year's prize is the latest and greatest small radio for Yaesu, the FT-897, and we will give it away to the lucky winner at Arlington Ham-Com. Please do your part by accepting tickets for sale to others, and help support TDXS.

Now might be a great time to consider one or more of your non-TDXS ham friends for membership. The rule is 4 meetings in a year, so encourage them to start coming to meetings. The next one will be this Thursday, so it's not too soon to spread the word.

73 and gud DX,

**Madison**  
**W5MJ**

## Repeater Update

There have been a few changes to the club's repeaters. The 147.36 repeater has been serviced.

I have installed a preselector/filter and preamp to the receiver. This seems to have removed almost all of the intermod that was present on the input. The rest of the system was tested and adjusted as required. The transmitter power was adjusted for 25-watts out of the duplexer. Unfortunately, 15-watts was being reflected back from the antenna. My first attempt to inspect the antenna was cut short by 40MPH winds. A few weeks later, between cold fronts, I was able to get up on the roof. I found an open N barrel connector at the antenna. After replacing it the reflected power was down to one watt and coverage was noticeably improved.

The 442.000 repeater was taken down and returned to it's owner. A new machine is being built. It is the Standard that the club purchased a while ago. Thanks to a generous donation by Bret, NT5D, we have a controller and receiver preselector for use in the new repeater. It is complete and is running on a test antenna at my home in Richmond. If you're in the area give it a try. It is ready to go up on the new site.

Speaking of new sites, we have one. I am in the process of securing a new rooftop site for the repeaters. The new site is on San Felipe Plaza, on the corner of San Felipe and Augusta (29 44.924N 95 28.891W). It's around 500 feet tall and should provide great coverage. Hopefully, the intermod and site noise will be better. The deal is almost done, so maybe we'll be ready to install the UHF repeater next month.

### Packet Cluster Update

Since Jim Lane N5DC has announced his retirement, I have taken over as DX cluster sysop. The K5DX node on 145.71MHz will be moving from it's current location to my office near Bellaire (29 42.945N 95 28.277W). I have constructed a new node, K5DX-1. The antenna is at 100 feet and it is running 50 watts. I am still waiting on the TW folks to install Roadrunner so that we can have telnet as well as RF access. When the installation is complete, the old node will be shut down and the new node will be renamed K5DX. Give it a try, if you're in the fringe areas, you can connect through TDXS71.

That's all for now....

### Glenn WB5TUF

The travails of Roster(mon)" by Ken Eckel, AB5A

This January I volunteered to maintain the official TDXS membership roster. There is currently 155 members on the Roster of TDXS. Many of you have answered a call via email for personal information updates. I will print the roster in total for membership review at the March meeting.

There is also an auxiliary list called, "Friends of TDXS". I will print this as well for membership review. The "old heads" will be especially useful in giving information on the people on these two lists who have not been active in TDXS for a prolonged period.

The roster is an important document to the club. It is worthy of our attention. There maybe persons who have become silent keys and this is not known to the club.

Another aspect of our club history that I have volunteered to organize is to archive items that are important to TDXS history. I would like to collect any items that members think are important to the past of TDXS. Old paper Bullsheets or contest logs or licenses are examples of itmes that I have in mind. If you submit an item, please take a few minutesto write a short letter describing the significance of the item.

I am a new guy in the club and do NOT know alot of thestory I'm trying to archive. If its important to you, its important toTDXS.

I will be at the meeting to collect these items.

## **“DX Report by Ken – AB5A”**

Hello TDXS'ers. Here comes the Spring Equinox and where is the DX? Been kind of quiet. Hopefully 10M will come alive with some long distance openings these coming weeks.

**HH, Haiti** A couple of German operators activated Haiti which is not that rare. What is rare is hearing HH on the low bands. They were frequently on top band, 80M and 40M. The callsigns used were HH6/DM2AYO and HH6/DL7CM. QSL via HC

**9Y, Trinidad & Tobago & IOTA SA-009, Tobago Island.** Several operators were operating from Tobago island. Some callsigns used were 9Y4/DL2SEK & 9Y4TBG. Again this is not a rare entity but it is not very common to hear on top band. QSL 9Y4/DL2SEK via HC & 9Y4TBG via DL4MEH.

**KH4, Midway Island & IOTA OC-030, Midway Is.** Wilton P. Myerson, NH6D was active from Midway on several bands. QSL via N6FF.

**5X, Uganda** The Germans again! Another group of DL operators have activated this entity on most of the upper bands and two modes, PHONE & RTTY. Callsign used 5X1DC. QSL via DL7AFS.

**9G, Ghana** Yep, Germans again. Callsign used 9G5ZZ. Active on all the bands 40M and above. QSL via DL1CW

**IOTA, NA-167, Pelicano Island** This island was activated by an island Dxpediton group. Callsign used XF1K. QSL via N6AWD.

**PY0-F, Fernando de Noronha** Bill Smith, W9VAY has been active from this entity. He was heard during the ARRL DX CW & PHONE contests and was active on the WARC bands at other times. QSL via W9VA.

**YS, El Salvador** Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD an avid DX'er and contester widely known, as “Ronnie” was active from this entity for the ARRL. Callsign during contest periods was HU1A and off contest periods was YS/YT1AD. All contest bands including top band were used. QSL via YT1AD.

**S9 Sao Tome & Principe** Charles Lewis, KY4P has been active on 10M. This is notable as Charles has a 10-10 International number of 16955. DXCC is a laudable award but 10-10 DXCC on 10M is even more difficult. QSL via N4JR.

**IOTA NA-160, Cochinos Island** Thomas Quinlan, W0GLG activated this island on the standard IOTA frequencies. Callsign used W0GLG/HR3. QSL via W0GLG.

**IOTA NA-170, Porvenir Island** Joel Sutterlin, HP2/F5PAC will be activating several islands on this trip to Panama. QSL via HC

**EA6, Balearic Islands** Josep Torres, EA6BF has been taking advantage of the quiet conditions on the low bands and especially top band for the last several weeks.

**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**

## **The Travails of Roster(mon)” by Ken Eckel, AB5A**

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**Ken AB5A**

## **Bill Pierpont, N0HFF, SK**

The following was found on the [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com) website:

Bill Pierpont, age 88, became a Silent Key Feb 20, 2003. As many of you know, Bill Pierpont was the author of The Art & Skill of Radio-Telegraphy. His generous gesture of distributing this book freely on the Internet and printed at no profit to himself, allowed this inspirational and educational publication to be enjoyed by hams all over the world. It has been translated and published in several languages. He made a major contribution to Amateur Radio and will be sorely missed.

73

Nancy Kott, WZ8C (FISTS Membership)

If you are interested, the book can be downloaded in PDF format at <http://www.qsl.net/n9bor/n0hff.htm>.

73,

**Dale, KG5U**

## TDXS Contesting

Recent Contest Claimed Scores by TDXS Members:

North American Sprint CW:

K5GN (@W5KU)	369	52	4	19,188
K5NZ	319	49	4	15,582
KG5U (QRP)	193	41	4	7,913

NA QSO Party (SSB)

W5NN (@K5NZ)	2073	271	12	561,783
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(operators: K5NZ, W5WW, W5ASP, N5RP, KG5U)

NA QSO Party (CW)

W5NN (@K5NZ)	1878	317	12	595,326
K5XR (W5ASP)	601	140	8	83,720
KG5U (QRP)	639	196	10	125,244

ARRL DX Contest (CW)

SOAB HP K5GN (@W5KU)	2723	443	42	3,578,997	TDXS
SOAB QRP KG5U	670	247	28.5	494,247	TDXS

ARRL DX Contest (SSB)

SOAB HP K5XR (W5ASP)	517	197	20	305,547	TDXS
SOSB/15 HP K5NZ	673	89	9	179,691	CTDXCC
SOAB QRP KG5U	287	119	9	102,102	TDXS

Upcoming contests:

NA Sprint, RTTY – 0000-0400Z, March 9

Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase – 0200-0400Z, March 13 (see below)

10-10 Mobile Contest – 0000-2400Z, March 15

Russian DX Contest – 15/1200Z-16/1200Z

Sprint QRP Homebrewer Sprint – 0000-0400Z, March 24

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB –29/ 0000Z-30/2400Z

### 2003 Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase

**Object:** Hounds (participating stations) work only the twenty pre-selected Armadillos stations during the two-hour contest period.

**Date/Time:** 12/2000-2200 CST (13/0200-0400Z)

**Mode:** CW

**Power:** Armadillos: 5 watts

Hounds: Your choice, but must be 5 watts or less for a certificate.

**Exchange:** <Hound Call><RST><State><Name><Power><Hound Call>

**Frequency:** 7.025-7.070 MHz (approximate)

The complete rules and the roster of the 20 Armadillos to be worked are located at <http://www.w5nc.org/ptac/default.html>.

**73, Dale Martin, KG5U**

## **6D2YFM ARRL DX Contest Expeditions**

### **Scores**

**CW 6847 Q's 7,993,636 points**

**SSB 9824 Q's 9,692,222 points**

### **SSB Summary By W5SB**

Conditions were pretty good in Mexico for us this weekend. It rained most of the time and made for nice quite lower bands. 160 meters was as quite as I have heard it down there. We usually get thunder storms that makes 160 and 75 really noisy. The rain was very slow and no storms. As expected, 15 meters was our money band. It's hard to predict what 10 is going to do since we are only few miles from the Texas border. Some times 10 is too long for us and we just have to sit and listen Caribe make the great runs. It was pretty good and even worked quite a few W5's. Our 40 meter beam went south on CW so we put up a 40 meter loop on the tower for SSB. It played pretty well. Our ten meter stack lost it phasing capability for some reason. That hurt us some I'm sure. All in all we had a good contest. The equipment worked flawlessly. We have to run off a generator since the Mexican power is not too good. We can run the amps off the incoming 240 but the radios and every thing else have to run off the generator. One leg of the power is around 90 volts and the other is about 150. You can turn a light on in one room of the house and a light in another room goes out.

We had a good crew and we want to really thank Dave N5DO and Bill KE5OG from the Big Bend Radio Club in Alpine Tx for coming over and joining us. They are both really good ops and added tremendously to our crew. N5DO was also with us for CW.

A special thanks to Ken KA5AKG that kept us fed with his great cooking some of which he had to do in the rain. Ken got his first experience in major contesting as well as Rob KD5BXZ

Congratulations to the PJ2T crew for a great score. After looking at their web site our 6D2YFM operation looks like Field Day in comparison. We have to haul every thing into the site by SUV's and Pickups over very ruff dirt roads. All equipment, coax, generator fuel and other necessary supplies are brought in for the weekend including food and water. Only the antennas and towers are in place. It's very much a third world experience. Some of us have to sleep on cots outside and in the back of our SUV's. All the food has to be prepared on a propane camp stove and a fire pit. It's great fun and we keep going back.

We also want to thank Jaime XE1YMF and Daniel XE1YBD for their support.

### **CW Summary By N1LN**

This was our first attempt at putting together a serious M/2 operation. After having done Multi-singles for a few years we decided to give it a try. As those of you that have done this know, it is not an easy task when you must bring all the necessary radio equipment, computers, coax, spare antennas and antenna parts, food, pots, pans, cooking supplies, generator, gas, etc. along with you. Fortunately the towers and yagis are already installed. Then add to that the crossing of the US - Mexican border with all that stuff in the SUVs and Pickups.

The operators are usually all from the Houston and Nuevo Laredo area, but this year we expanded the team to include some of the regulars from the Texas QSO Party. John Desloge, N6MU, from California and Dave Cockrum, N5DO, from Alpine, TX signed on to the team. John was the 2002 First Place non-Texas winner, and Dave was the 2002 First Place Single Op fixed location winner from within Texas.

Oh yes - - did I mention food? We owe much of our success to Tom Atkins - KD5EIJ that signed on as the cook. Man did we eat !! It sure is amazing what Tom can do with some charcoal, and old fireplace, and LOTS OF TALENT. We ate like KINGS.

**Continued on next page**

## 6D2YFM ARRL DX Contest Expeditions

Now on to the operating. The station is only used twice per year, for the ARRL DX CW and ARRL DX SSB so we had some antenna maintenance to do on Friday. With the nine of us, that got worked in short order, including setting up the stations, putting up the beverages and a “just in case” R7000 that we borrowed from another club member, Phil Pierce - KK0CW. The bell struck 00:00 UTC and we were off and running. At about 01:30 UTC the storm from HELL hit us. The rain started, the wind came up, the thunder and lightening was everywhere. Bruce, N1LN, just about jumped out of his skin once when a bright bolt of lightening snapped across the sky immediately followed by a very loud thunder clap. We decided to keep going anyway. As it turned out that was the right decision to make.

After the first three hours were over we had 944 Q's in the log and it was time for the first shift change. The rate continued for a while and so did the storm. It stayed with us until 09:30 UTC (03:30am local). Needless to say, 160 and 80 were not much good night one, even with the beverages. The rates were up and down with everyone having a few real good runs, and after the first 24 hours we were already ahead of last year's M/2 winning score with another 24 hours to go. We knew much more was needed so on we went.....until about 02:30 UTC Sunday. That is when we found out the 40 mtr beam was dead. As it was 95 feet up, very windy and already dark, we decided to quickly throw together a dipole sloper. Well - after we proved that 5 extra class hams under pressure can't even make a dipole, we were VERY pleased to have the trusty R7000 along. Not quite the beam, but it was able to add over 600 more Q's to our 40 mtr total. Since we had another distant storm pass through on Saturday night, we never had a real quiet time for 160 or 80 so those bands remain in the “what if column”. Fortunately, Uncle Zed, K5ZTY and Madison, W5MJ did a great job of pulling the signals out of the QRN.

The rest is now history. We had a great time - made lots of Qs - weathered the storm - had OUTSTANDING meals..... have I mentioned the food? - and became closer friends. Thanks to all that worked us. An extra BIG thanks to everyone that QSY'd for us. Especially our Canadian friends who were almost 100% agreeable to jumping bands for us. That really helped the mult total.

We will be back next year on CW and listen for us March 1st and 2nd on the ARRL-DX-SSB.

**73 from the 6D2YFM team,**

### CW

Bill - W5SB  
Bill “Uncle Zed” - K5ZTY  
Bruce - N1LN  
Chuck - NO5W  
Daniel - XE1YDB  
Dave - N5DO  
Jaime - XE1YFM  
John - N6MU  
Madison - W5MJ  
Mike - K5NZ  
Tom - KD5EIJ

### SSB

Bill - KE5OG  
Bill - W5SB  
Dave - N5DO  
Gregg - W5IDX  
Ken - KA5AKG  
Paul - W5PF  
Rob - KD5BXZ  
Walter - KK5LO  
Daniel - XE1YBD  
Jaime - XE1YFM