



THE BULLSHEET

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

August
2003

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

The Prez Sez - de Madison, W5MJ

Gee, I have been back from 7P8 for a couple of weeks now, and I am still catching up. If I had it all to do over again, I would not have waited nearly so long to go the first time on some outing like this one! What a fine time, and worth every bit of the effort!

The short version, which is what I will give you in this column, is that everything went as advertised, we all arrived on time, no one was hurt, we made about 10,000 Qs (which, I would wager, is probably as many as have been made in the entire history of the country prior to our arrival), we ate well, and we learned ever so much about Dxing.

The big surprise for me was propagation. We had mapped out where the signals would be going ahead of time, but did not have the current numbers available to us because our access to the internet was extremely limited. We chose instead to use our access time to upload logs, since we correctly figured that we were there anyway, and whoever happened to be out there would be there, too.

But back to 80 meter propagation: We all know that when the sun goes down, 80 meter propagation magically appears, right?

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TDXS Calendar

Upcoming events of interest to TDXSer's

IOTA Expedition (OC-???) New One!
Starting August 18 by N5UR and W5RQ
(See page 4)

Taildragger's Swapmeet -- Tomball
August 23 8:00AM (See page 4)

Monthly Meeting Announcement

August Meeting - Thursday August 14th
7:00PM Tracy Gee Center

We will have a tape of the **A52ADX**pedition and lot's of stories from the **7P** trip!!

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

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How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxx.net> email address: k5dx@tdxx.net
On 2 Meters: 147.96/36 MHz (100 Hz) On 70cm: 447.00/442.00 MHz (103.5 Hz)
On Packet: Connect to **K5DX** direct or via **TDXS71** on 145.71MHz.
TDXS Reflector: To subscribe to the TDXS reflector, go to
<http://moonbounce.n5iq.org/mailman/listinfo/tdxx-list>

The Prez Sez, from page 1

Well, perhaps it does around here, but over there things are different, believe you me! To keep in that example, I worked the night shift every night and found that 80 meter propagation from Lesotho to anywhere – EU, AS, NA, anywhere – does not exist until 3:00 am. That's not quite true: one night I had a few contacts about 2:30. I am sorry to report that during my very last shift, Friday night before we tore down things, that I managed to generate a massive wall of contacts about 3:30, but for the most part they were down in the noise and I could not work them. It's very nice to be wanted, however . . .

Another interesting propagation note is that about 7:30 am one morning (that's 00:30 local in Houston) I was working a good sized JA pile on 17. Out of the crowd came a loud West Coast station, who announced that he was working me long path (at 2230 local time for him). I rotated the beam to long path and found that the NA stations were not just loud, but really, really loud, including K5NA. How the middle US can be loud on 17 at midnight local is more than I'll know, but it's true.

I could go on and on, but it will have to wait until the next TDXS meeting. That's this coming Thursday at the Tracy Gee Center. Come early and stay late – same low rates, same friendly service!

73 de W5MJ, Madison

Friedrichshafen 2003...or BUST !

Frosty, K5LBU, myself, W5GCX and Ken, AB5A planned on attending the Hamfest in Friedrichshafen, Germany this year on the last weekend in June. Preparations were made with much help from the "net"... Hotel Reservations at the Hacienda, Standby tickets on Continental. Houston to Newark, Newark to Zurich, then the Swiss train north to Lake Constance and the ferry across to F'shafen. Ken flying for SW Airlines, headed up to Dallas for his connections. Last year we left on Wednesday and found we had a full day of rest but without a vehicle and in a hotel out of the center of town was not the most desirable condition.

This year due to work for W5GCX, we left early on Thursday morning for IAH. We arrived at GBush Airport and were off to Newark around 8AM. Once arriving in Newark we had 5+ hours to expend wandering the stores at the airport. After a sandwich and coffee we headed to the gate. Wow, so many people and a flashing sign about the flight being "overbooked". Around 4:30PM the gate agents started re-checking in the passengers and announcing a future refund of \$300 plus flights tomorrow, hotel and food coupons. This didn't sound too good. This went on for about 1 hour and the bounty was raised to \$500 + +. Frosty and I checked the standby list and we were second after one CO employee. She put on her ID and was off to sit in the "jump seat".....better her than me ! No one else in front of us this shouldn't be too bad. That's what we thought.

The gate agents continued to let people into the plane all the way to 5 minutes before the 757-200 pulled out from the gate !! Not really normal. Soooo, we didn't make it. The next flight was to Frankfurt at 8PM. So we wandered off to another gate, called CO on the 800 number and got listed on it.

We got to that gate and the same situation existed...they were overbooked 10-15 passengers. After 1 1/2 hours that flight also pulled off from the gate. We figured that was all for 2003 and headed to back to the gate where the flight to Houston was waiting and was 1 1/2 hours late due to leave at 9:15PM instead of 8PM. Once the gate agent there pulled up the computer she found that the flight to Geneva had 4 seats open up front but the door was closed and it too was pulling away. It seems that that flight departs at the same time as the Frankfurt flight. So now we were stuck at Newark airport and no way across the pond or back to the SW.

So we found a sleep place and headed back to Houston at 6AM on Friday. Next year in Friedrichshafen we hope and maybe we will go via Paris which is direct from Houston !!

73 Hamfesters

de Ed, W5GCX

(My apologies to Ed for having to delay publication from last month. - editor.)

IOTA Expedition -- Buzz N5UR

Buzz, N5UR, and John, W5RQ, will activate **Taongi Atoll (OC-???)**, one of the last two unnumbered IOTA groups in the Marshall Islands (V7). The callsign will be announced at the start of the operation which is scheduled to begin August 18 and run for three or four days. (We asked for V75T, but may get V73T, but then who knows?) There will be both CW and SSB on 40 through 10 meters, with an emphasis on 17, 20 and 30 (CW). QSL via N6AWD

The Taildragger's Lunch Bunch's Tailgate Swapmeet

Sponsored by the Taildragger's and the Tomball Repeater Group

Bring your pickup loaded and swap your surplus "stuff." Here is a rare opportunity to get that hard to find item for your Fall antenna projects or to swap your tired old junk for somebody else's shiny new junk. You might be able to trade some good stuff too!

Cost: Nada (nothing)

Date and time: Saturday August 23, 2003 starting at 8:00AM

Location: Behind the Step by Step Christian School
1119 South Cherry Street
Tomball, Texas 77375

There is a covered pavilion with parking for approximately 50 pickups.

Located next to the Catholic Church about 0.7 miles south of Main St. (FM2920) in Tomball

For further information contact Paul, W5PF. Email w5pf@arrl.net