



THE BULLSHEET

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

July
2003

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

The Prez Sez - de Madison, W5MJ

The big news around my house is that the trip that K5LBU suggested to me about a year ago – the two of us would go to 7P8 and knock out a few Qs during his summer vacation from Olle Middle School while kicking about the countryside – is almost upon us. There is a difference between our original plan and present reality, however. It has now grown to a major DXpedition, with 8 operators and 3 additional support people. I suppose we will have a web page with near-instant logs, hundreds of pounds of equipment, thousands of Qs, and tons of fun. Furthermore, this trip has gained international scrutiny, not so much because of the quality of the ops but because it is apparently very difficult to get a QSL card from Lesotho. On that score, I have worked 7P8 several times in the past but have yet to get a card to confirm it. Hopefully, The Deserving will have this square filled in their DX logs following our trip.

I had no idea going into this thing the time necessary to put it all together. Fortunately, several of the members have been there and done that before, and devoted a little of their time in helping the cause. Inventing the wheel only occurs every week or two instead of every day.

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TDXS Calendar

Upcoming events of interest to TDXSer's

Lesotho, 7P8, DXpedition - July 18-25
See The Prez Sez

Monthly Meeting Announcement

July Meeting - Thursday July 10th
7:00PM Tracy Gee Center

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

Texas DX Society Officers

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Communications Chairman	Paul Frantz, W5PF	w5pf@ev1.net	281-351-8930

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

Nonetheless, there have major efforts taken to plan itineraries, pitch the manufacturers, design logos, discuss band plans, coordinate computers and software, get licenses, and put the whole thing into a package that works. If you want to follow along online, take a look at our progress on <http://www.amsatnet.com/7p8.html>. Frosty gave up stir-fry for the interim, as you can see!

The other TDXS recent activity was Field Day. Though we had our share of troubles, it was good practice for The Real Thing, I suppose. I learned first hand how difficult it is to stab an antenna on top of a cranked-down crankup during a 25 knot wind. And then we had to do it again because the capacity hats were still on the ground when the antenna was in the air. The turnout was modest, but we did very well as 1A South Texas: W5TUF made about 150 satellite contacts (second best in the event, we think), and the rest of us logged about 350 SSB and 1000 CW Qs. There were even about 50 on the magic band. In addition, Linda and Dave Topp knocked themselves out at their beach house. The food was to die for, and far more than we could eat. We managed to scrounge some field glasses as well, so that we could make sure no one was drowning in the surf. This was amateur radio at its best. Too bad if you stayed home and failed to come to Surfside, but you will probably have a chance again next year. (See pictures by N5DD on the last page..ed.)

That's it for now. Keep those radios tuned up for 7P8CF, 7P8MJ and all the others in late July. Lesotho gray-lines with Houston about 5 am Central US time, so see if you can find us on 160 between static crashes.

Madison presents the TDXS grand prize (Yaesu FT-897) to Ham-Com winner, Daryl Pate - KC5SLQ of Fort Worth.



**Huge Crowds Make TDXS Raffle A Success!
de Madison W5MJ**

No surprise here, folks: the Yaesu FT-907 was raffled off Saturday afternoon of Arlington HamCom to KC5SLQ of Ft. Worth. To those who purchased tickets (including certain of our number who have sworn they would never, ever buy tickets, many, many thanks and better luck next time. To those who didn't, get in line a little sooner next time, because we really do need your support.

As always, there were lots of reasons we did well. Special thanks to George Diletto of Houston Amateur Radio Supply for going that extra mile with Yaesu, and to Bob W5SJS who made arrangements to have the tickets printed. Without Bob, we would not have had any tickets to sell. Shaking down the unwary at this year's Arlington table were Frosty K5LBU and daughter Elizabeth White, Mike N5MT, Dale KG5U, Steve W9DX and Don N5DD. There were probably others whom I have overlooked, and for that I apologize. We also sold some items donated by Joe W5ASP, and added that to the total.

I don't have the final count on sales, but they were good, probably due in part to the somewhat larger crowd in Arlington this year. I did notice that many of the people who stepped up to the booth seemed to have a little less disposable cash in their pockets this year. As a fer-instance, Gordon West bought a lot fewer tickets this year, but maybe he had other things on his mind.

Again, lots of thanks to everyone who participated. This was, once again, a team effort!

How To Use The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service de Buzz N5UR

Yes I am bitching, but also hoping this article will help you get more QSLs.

The outgoing QSL service is a great benefit of TDXS membership, but some of you are abusing or using it incorrectly. I take all the cards you give me that are supposed to be sorted per ARRL rules below. Over the past few months only half have been sorted correctly if at all. **I am returning cards that are unsorted.**

After I get your cards I then must sort all your individual stacks into one big sorted pile before mailing to ARRL. They must be sorted by country, not prefix, and should not include QSLs for countries with no buros. See <http://WWW.arrl.org/qsldata.html> for details. Also, since collectively we have huge numbers of cards to JA EA DL and certain other countries, where economic, I send these cards directly to the JA buro etc. This speeds up your cards and saves the club \$8 per pound paid to ARRL which is often more than the cost of direct mail. The ARRL is tricky that way. The TDXS cost per card for mailing and ARRL charges amounts to 9¢ per card.

Cards get mailed every three months or so depending on volume. I will not be at this weeks meeting, so we can wait until next month, or drop them off at my house anytime. I live off I-10 east 1 mile south of Blalock/Echo lane. Don't forget to include proof of ARRL membership with your cards, such as a **RECENT QST MAILING LABEL OR PHOTOCOPY**. Second, you guys are pissing away a lot of QSLs that the ARRL just throws away as they are on the list with no buro. (See next page)

Finally, the ARRL will accept cards for managers, but they will not figure that out for you. You must figure out who the proper manager and put it on the card. Neither the ARRL nor myself have time to route your cards. Try <http://www.qsl.net/pathfinder/WebClient/>

Also, printing legibly would be a big help for me and the buro guys. Computer labels are OK to if they are larger enough font size to be read by a 50+ year old! Finally, many cards have scratch outs, corrections, etc that make them worthless for awards the other guy might be collecting. Remember the old adage do unto others. Also, put the managers call at the top of the card where it can be found easily.

Finally,(didn't I already say finally?) it is obvious many of you do not want cards when you are sending buro cards to rare DX stations. Many managers and DX stations do not accept buro cards as postage and card printing alone roundtrip can cost upwards of 20¢ per card. For the rarer DX and manager cards I would suggest the WF5E QSL service. Les does a fantastic job and often gets cards that I failed to get direct with \$ or IRC.

1) Presort your DX QSL's alphabetically by parent call-sign prefix (AP, C6, CE, DL, ES, EZ, F, G, JA, LY, PY, UN, YL, 5N, 9Y and so on). Canadian and Australian cards should be sorted by numerical callsign (VE1, VE2, VE3 & VK1, VK2, VK3 etc). NOTE: Some countries have a parent prefix and use additional prefixes, i.e. G (parent prefix) = M, 2E, 2I, 2M, 2W,.... When sorting countries that have multiple prefixes, keep that country's prefixes grouped with the parent prefix in your alphabetical stack.

How To Use The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service - (Continued)

Countries Not Served By The Outgoing QSL Service

Approximately 260 DXCC countries are served by the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service, as detailed in the ARRL DXCC List. In some cases, there is no Incoming Bureau in a particular country and cards therefore cannot be forwarded. However, QSL cards can be forwarded to a QSL manager, e.g., ZB2FX via (G3RFX). The ARRL Outgoing Service cannot forward cards to the following countries:

A3 Tonga	SU Egypt	3C0 Pagalu Island
A5 Bhutan	T2 Tuvalu	3C Equatorial Guinea
A6 United Arab Emirates	T3 Kiribati	3W, XV Vietnam
D2 Angola	T5 Somalia	3X Guinea
E3 Eritrea	T8 Palau	5A Libya
J5 Guinea-Bissau	TJ Cameroon	5R Madagascar
KH0 Mariana Is.	TL Central African Republic	5T Mauritania
KH1 Baker & Howland Is.	TN Congo	5U Niger
KH4 Midway Island	TT Chad	5V Togo
KH5 Palmyra & Jarvis Is.	TY Benin	7O, 4W Yemen
KH7K Kure Island	V6 Micronesia	7P Lesotho
KH8 American Samoa	VP2E Anguilla	7Q Malawi
KH9 Wake Island	VP2M Montserrat	8Q Maldives
KP1 Navassa Island	XU Kampuchea	9N Nepal
KP5 Desecheo Island	XW Laos	9U Burundi
P5 North Korea	XZ, 1Z Myanmar (Burma)	9X Rwanda
S0 Western Sahara	YA, T6 Afghanistan	S7 Seychelles
ZD9 Tristan da Cunha	S9 Sao Tome & Principe	ZK1 North & South Cook Is.

Countries that currently restrict the forwarding of QSL cards to anyone other than members of that country's national radio society include the following:

Denmark · France · Germany · Greece · Hungary · Italy · Japan · Monaco · Morocco · Norway · Poland · Portugal · South Africa · Zambia

73 Buzz N5UR/Utopia

“DX Report by Ken – AB5A”

Hello TDXS'ers. I could end this issue of the DX report with two symbols: 6 & M, but I won't deprive you of the details. First a little background on operating on 6M. I have been listening on 6M a lot for the last several weeks. There are many new 6M operators out there and it is quite obvious from where they came. Now there are many experienced 6M Ops in TDXS so those of you please excuse the following diatribe. 6M is not HF, it is VHF. The propagation modes on 6M are predominately E skip(Es), Tropospheric ducting(Tropo) and Meteor scatter(Ms). Sometimes combinations of these will produce openings, like a Tropospheric duct coupling into Es. All of this leads to one thing, short and sometimes very short QSO's. Meteor scatter QSO's can last seconds. What constitutes a QSO? The VHF community generally counts a contact when callsigns and 4 character Maidenhead Grid square data are exchanged. Because of the characteristics of 6M, there are several techniques that will help making contacts. Call CQ in very short periods and listen at least twice as long as you call. A good CQ call on 6M might be CQ twice, your call once and Grid Square once. “CQ CQ AB5A EL29” will take about the right amount of time. Any longer and your transmission could last longer than several fades on Es. Then listen for a period that is about twice that amount of time. One trick is to speak swiftly which will shorten the transmission and lengthen the receive. You might get a partial callsign over several burns or “pings” on meteor scatter so use paper and pencil to scratch notes. To log the contact make a priority of getting the callsign and grid then work on the signal report. After all that then talk about your station, the weather, your health etc. Except for ground wave, through a repeater or the rare strong Es opening, 6M is NOT a rag chew band. The band plan for 6M is CW below 50.100 and beacons are usually between 50.060 and 50.080. I like to log beacons and usually email reception reports to the beacon operator. They are also a way to know when and to where the band is open. The calling frequency is 50.125Mhz. I usually park my receiver there to monitor. The DX window is 50.110 to 50.120. This window should only be used for contacts with other DXCC entities. Because of the typically weak signals, headphones are a big help.

VE9, Bermuda Ken, VE9GE has been worked in EL29 several days in June. He is often worked in EU but the openings to NA have been very frequent and strong. QSL via CBA

WP4, Puerto Rico There are many 6M operators on Puerto Rico. Several have been operating during openings into EL29. Callsigns that have been worked in EL29 are: WP4O, KP4EIT, WP4LNY, WP4NIX, WP4KJJ. Puerto Rico has 4 grid squares that bisect it: FK67, FK68, FK77 & FK78

HI, Dominican Republic Rafael, HI8ROX in Grid FK58 was worked in EL29. QSL via ON4ANT:Steve, K8WK/HI9 in Grid FK59 was worked in EL29, QSL via HC

PJ2, Bonaire & Curacao A well known 6M Dxer, Brett, PJ2BR in Grid FK52 was worked in EL29. QSL via HC

9Y, Trinidad & Tobago Jeff, 9Y4AT in Grid FK90 was worked in EL29. QSL via CBA

YV, Venezuela There were several 6M ops from Venezuela heard in EL29. Callsigns worked: YV4GMG, YV4EWW

C6, Bahamas Jim, W6JKV a very well known 6M Dxpeditonier was active from Grid FL16. He was working all over the place. On the air one day I heard him say he had worked 35 countries in a single day

8P Barbados Tony, 8P9HW in Grid GK03 was worked in EL29. QSL via G4IOQ buro only

CO, Cuba Eduardo, CO8LY in grid FL20 was worked in EL29. QSL via EA7ADH

5T, Mauritania Frank, DL8YHR on a Dxpediton using the callsign 5T6M from Grid IK28 was worked in EL29. QSL via ON4ANT

XE, Mexico Many 6M operators from Mexico were worked in EL29 during June. A short list of callsigns worked include: XE2MX, grid DM11, XE2HWB grid DL44, XE1MEX grid EK08, XE1NK grid EK09, XE1BEF grid DK89

A Hundred others, DX I did not mention the Canadian stations heard. From the list above, if you were chasing DXCC on 6M and you worked this list, you'd already have 11 towards DXCC. I bet you thought DXCC was tough on 160M. No, the real challenge is DXCC on 6M and doing it from Texas. It's a lot easier in EU where countries are the size of Harris County.

Field Day Pictures by Don N5DD



RV and Antennas



RV Crankup



Trailer and Tower