



THE BULLSHEET

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

November
2003

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

The Prez Sez - de Madison, W5MJ

The contest season is in full swing, and I am still playing catch-up. I am reminded of the old cry, "Wait for me, everyone. I am your leader!" I have been inspired, however, to finish the overhaul of my ancient A-3 and rotator and put them back up on the tower [even though I did not get the job finished over the weekend] to see if I can get a lick in before the season is over. Wish me luck.

I guess the largest or second largest flare in history is itself now history. I had incorrectly assumed that an SFI of 286 I saw a week or two ago was going to last for awhile. Yesterday's SFI number was 91, and the A and K indices were large, so we can all retire to the workbench to repair all our broken equipment which has been gathering dust for the last 4 years or so.

The radio business has been slow for me lately, due to other commitments and for others, from the looks of things. There has been some interest in the Mexican operations from XE2FU/XE2KB/XA5T/6D2 which I will share with you in next month's column. I want to let the ARRL have an adequate opportunity to actually pursue a resolution to the apparent disagreement [as opposed to actually NOT pursue it]. Those rumblings you hear are storm clouds . . .

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TDXS Calendar

Upcoming events of interest to TDXSer's

CQWW - CW November 29-30

Micronesia - V6 - Nov. 23 - 30
Paul, V63PF (W5PF) and Cal V63WC
(WF5W) will be on from Yap (OC-012)
QSL via W5PF

December TDXS Meeting

Please watch the TDXS Reflector for an announcement of the December Meeting. Rumor has it that a Christmas Party may break out at a familiar location.

Monthly Meeting Announcement

Monthly Meeting -Thursday November 13th
6:00PM Luther's (Gessner & Westheimer)
Dinner will be followed by the general meeting at the Tracy Gee Center. Joe W5ASP will present a program on Antennas.

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 (Continued)

Finally, take a look at your QSLing procedures. I have written a piece outlining some of the problems Buzz Jehle is encountering elsewhere in this fine publication, (see Page 3 .. ed.) and WE need to do something about it.

Madison, W5MJ

Editors' Note:

Next month's Bullsheet will be late because of my upcoming trip to V6 (Yap Island) and KH6 (vacation only, no radio). Further information on the Yap operation are available on the web at:

<http://www.dutson.net/Ham/Yap/Index.html>

Hopefully we will have some propagation back to the deserving W5 area, look for us.

Paul, W5PF

MEA CULPA QSL de Madison, W5MJ

If you do something incorrectly for a long-enough period of time, it will eventually come back to you like a boomerang and conk you on the head. To illustrate, I gathered a vast number of QSL cards at the last several meetings for delivery to Buzz N5UR, our trusty Card Person [Volunteer – no pay]. I figured I might as well toss in a few of my own into the mix under the theory that no one will notice that I, as president of a DX and contest society, have such a meager output of QSL cards that I must not be keeping up the traditions of the organization and will thus be the object of scorn and ridicule. So I did, and just tossed them in the large box I used to transport the other cards, believing that I would put them together in proper order, with orderly groupings by country. Unfortunately, I never got around to doing the orderly grouping thing, and so the box, when delivered to Buzz, was partly orderly, partly not orderly.

Apparently a number of us were thinking the same thing. In a flaming e-mail to the TDXS Reflector, Buzz stated that our collective practices were abysmal, and not worthy of people of our experience. True, true!

Buzz, I apologize for the group as a whole. I am certainly one of the offenders, and will mend my ways. For those of you who also offend in this way [we are only talking about this particular offense, mind you] WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE. Sending off cards is a service to the membership, paid for by TDXS, but put in practice by Buzz and those who preceded him. I find doing my own cards to be burdensome but at least they are of my own doing. When one is asked to volunteer time and lots of it to do someone else's cards, the least we can do is to put them in proper order. With luck, there will be an article in next month's 'Sheet giving the particulars on what to do, which cards can be sent via the Buro and some of the quirky things about the system. **(Editor's Note: There was an article by Buzz in the July 2003 Bullshead on this subject.)**

This Buro system is an excellent one, but only works because we try to follow the rules. Let's give a good effort to fix the problems.

DX Report by Ken – AB5A

Hello TDXS'ers. I must apologize for my missing the last 2 issues of the bullsheet. Vacations on my part and then on the editor's part kept it from happening. The Sun has been both friend and foe this Fall. 6M has been active. EL29 has worked several grids in Hawaii late in October. The HF bands have been a mess. Your DX chairman has not been as active as the season would warrant but the bands have been unpredictable. Most times, I sit down and spin the VFO on 20M and not hear a single signal. This is itself a signal to hit the off switch and go do something else.

3C0, Annabon Island This operation is probably the biggest DX news this Fall. It is a well documented story but should be mentioned here for thoroughness. A group of predominately Spanish operators traveled to this rare DX entity. From the get go, they had trouble. The operation came to an abrupt end when the military kicked them off the island, permits and all. Dxpeditioning can be a hazardous sport. It is good all operators made it back home to live to operate another day. QSL via DJ9ZB

PY0-S St Peter and St Paul Rocks Joaquim, PS7JN has been active again this last September. This operation focused on the WARC bands. He was mostly heard on RTTY. QSL via PS7JN.

ZK3 Tokelau Island Manfred, DJ7RJ activated this entity, which is not rare but not heard everyday. He was active as ZK3MW in late September. Luckily he was worked in Texas on 10M. QSL via HC.

FH Mayotte Island John, G4IRN was active on 30M from Mayotte as FH/G4IRN. He was worked in Texas on 30M. QSL via HC.

TU Ivory Coast Nemlin, TU2XZ has been active on 30M CW. Not heard everyday but 30M is a very good band as a compromise between low sunspots and D layer absorption for Dxing. QSL via W3HC. G4IRN

IOTA OC-new Taongi Island TDXS's very own Buzz, N5UR and John, W5RQ activated an all time new IOTA in late August. Conditions to Texas were very rough but several TDXS'ers made contacts with Buzz. QSL V73B via N5UR and V73T via W5RQ.

ZL8 Kermadec Islands This semi rare island was activated as ZM8CW in middle October. QSL via ZL1AMO.

IOTA OC-012 Yap Island Roger, G3SXW and Nigel, G3TXF activated Yap Island for several day in late September. They used the callsigns: V63SXW and V63TXF respectively. QSL via their respective HC's.

IOTA OC-152 Tubuai Island Markus, FO/DL1IAM and Andreas, FO/DL3GA activated Tubuai Island in late September. QSL via HC.

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.