



# THE BULLSHEET

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

MONTH  
2004

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

## **June Meeting -- Thursday June 10th Antennas for the Solar Cycle Trough, Rick Hiller, W5RH**

As the solar cycle meanders through the period of minimum sun spot activity, hams turn to the lower bands, where the propagation remains plausible. Shifting 'air time' operation to below 10 MHz means that the typical antenna farm must expand beyond "a yagi on a tower". Inverted L's, loops, and verticals are just a few of the names that are dropped during a discussion of what low band ops are hanging on their favorite sky hook. This presentation will look at the popular low band oriented antennas, their attributes, benefits and caveats. Antenna loading plays an important part too, as antennas get bigger, but the ham's property does not; so a look at the various methods of shortening antennas is in order. Finally, a delve into the full wave loop arena, where shape, orientation and feed point manipulation all play a very active part in how the antenna performs. An extensive bibliography handout will be provided to allow the listener to go home and continue the research of what low band antenna is best for them. Rick, W5RH, was infatuated with short wave radio at 9 years old. He got his first license in 1969, as a crystal controlled Novice, WN3OCV. In 1986 he re-entered the Amateur ranks as KF5NU and immediately starting studying, designing and building HF antennas. For the past 5 years or more, he has been 'slowly' optimizing his "W5RH Delta loop".

### **Mark your calendar to attend this interesting presentation!**

Thursday, June 10, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the Tracey Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive  
Directions: One block east of Beltway 8, between Richmond and Westpark.

Dinner before the meeting will be at Le Madelaine, 10001 Westheimer at Briar Park @ 6:00PM  
Guests and visitors are always welcome.

### **The Prez Sez - de Mike, N5MV**

I would like to address a couple of subjects:

**The Raffle:** TDXS funds are getting low and I expect you could use a Yaesu FT-857D Transceiver which we will be raffling off in several weeks. If you have one already then another would make a pair. The new version has DSP installed,

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### **TDXS Calendar**

**Upcoming events of interest to TDXSer's**

**June 18-19, Ham-Com, Arlington, TX**

**June 26-27, Field Day at W5BXX,  
Surfside, TX**

**July 7, (Wed.) Bruce Paige, KK5DO,  
Operating Satellites on a Dualband HT  
July 10, Tidelands Summerfest**

**Texas City, TX**

**Aug. 7, Austin Summerfest & Joint  
TDXS/CTDXCC party @ K5NA**

## Texas DX Society Officers

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## How to reach US

On the World Wide Web <http://www.tdxs.net> email address: [k5dx@tdxs.net](mailto:k5dx@tdxs.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/tdxs-list>

## “Where Are They Now?” de Steve Smothers W9DX



Grady Ferguson - W5FU (ex-NA5R) getting reacquainted with CW, after 10 years, during the 2004 MARAC CW contest at the K5RC station.

(photo courtesy: Tom Taormina - K5RC)

## Upcoming TDXS Activities de Don Daze N5DD

We have an exciting program series scheduled for the rest of the summer. We are covering topics like Antennas, Satellite QSOs, and Software Defined Radios. Additionally, we will be involved in offsite activities at the Arlington and Austin conventions.

The June meeting, as mentioned above, will have Rick Hiller, W5RH, speaking about antennas for the low part of the cycle. Rick has been a frequent speaker at the old Houston HamComs and at various radio clubs around town; he will also be speaking, on a related topic, at the Arlington HamCom later this month.

Speaking of HamCom, the LSDXA will be hosting a hospitality suite at the Wingate on Friday, June 18, evening, and hosting the DX Luncheon on Saturday, June 18. This year's luncheon program will include K3NA speaking about the most recent Rodriguez Island DXpedition. TDXS may or may not be able to formally support the LSDXA programs, but I encourage you to attend the hospitality suite, DX Luncheon, and other DX forums.

June finishes up with Field Day. TDXS will be operating 2A from W5BXX's QTH on Surfside beach. Please come and operate or just to visit. The July 7 meeting will feature Bruce Paige, KK5DO, speaking about how to work satellites using your HT, mobile, or base station. He will also talk about ECHO, the newest amateur satellite, to be launched later this month, and possibly give a live satellite demo. Bruce serves on the AMSAT Board of Directors, and has served as an officer in several local radio clubs. In addition, he is QSL manager for the P5 and an accomplished phone and CW DXer. (Note that the July meeting has been moved to Wednesday, instead of our normal Thursday, to accommodate Bruce's schedule.)

August starts with the Austin Summerfest, on August 7. In the afternoon, after the Summerfest DX programs are complete, we will have a joint TDXS / CTDXC party at Richard King, K5NA's, QTH in Manor, Texas. Richard has built a multi-tower contest station that most of us are dying to see and possibly operate from.

The August 12 meeting will be our high tech meeting. Gerald Youngblood, AC5OG, will be speaking about Software Defined Radios. Gerald will be traveling in from Austin, where he is the CEO of Sixth Market Inc, a hedge fund that trades equities using artificial intelligence software. In 2002 Gerald founded FlexRadio Systems to market software-defined radio products to the Amateur Radio market. He is the recipient of the ARRL 2002 Technical Excellence Award, for his series in QEX titled "A Software-Defined Radio for the Masses".

In September Ed Gerber, W5GCX will build on our antenna program by talking about his experiences building and operating with Quads, and what the ARRL left out of the Antenna Handbook about matching Quads. We also are working on the fall program segment. We have some tentative speaker commitments, but if you have any good ideas for programs please let me know. I am especially looking for presentations on tower erection and maintenance, and on VHF Rovering.

2004 Ham Com DX programs and luncheon

The following comes from Tom Anderson, WW5L...

The Lone Star DX Association is proud to announce its 2004 Ham Com DX programs and luncheon speaker for June 18-19 at the Arlington Convention Center. Luncheon tickets are \$30 and online registration is available at the Ham Com website. Tickets will not be mailed out this year as in the past. All tickets will be available for pickup at the Arlington Convention Center during Ham-Com. For questions on Ham Com itself there is a questions link on the Ham Com web page. As usual there will be many door prizes given out at the luncheon and at each program session. In addition, there will be some special "YL/XYL ONLY" door prize drawings.

## **Field Day 2004 de Dave Topp W5BXX**

FD will consist of one 40m CW station, one 40m SSB station. Both will have a 2el beam and rotor at about 50'. They have both been checked out and have a 1:1 SWR. The CW station will be in the RV on the beach and the SSB in the garage (am trying to get a small window AC unit put in there for more than one reason). Also, Glenn will again be the satellite operator and be in the RV.

A GOTA station will be set up on the 12'x12' deck on the walkway to the beach.

The 6m station will be in the RV again. There will be a tribander on each of the 40m towers.

Saturday night dinner will be provided with a nominal donation from the group.

Some may want to come on Friday. GREAT! Sat and Sun breakfast will be provided (free).

**DIRECTIONS:** Take hwy 288 south from Houston. As you go through Lake Jackson, you will pass a Randall's on the right. About 2 miles after, look for a sign on the right for Hwy 332, Surfside. Take it and when you get to the one and only stop light in Surfside (right after the high bridge over the intercoastal waterway) turn left, SET YOUR CRUISE CONTROL TO 40MPH, and go 4.8 miles. The beach house is on the right (second from the north in a 7-unit addition, all with blue accents). Phone 979-230-9780. Topp's cell 281-734-5849.

**LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!**

'73,

**Dave Topp**

**W5BXX**

## **TDXS Website Updates:**

A few members have expressed concerns about spam bots harvesting e-mail addresses from our website. Accordingly, I have removed all "mailto" references in the html code with encrypted equivalents. Users can still click on callsigns to send e-mails from links on the members and officers pages while preventing most spam bots from seeing the e-mail addresses. This should eventually help reduce the amount of junk mail received by members.

I'm still in need of the year members joined TDXS from 1983 through 1999. If the year joined isn't listed for you on the Members page, let me know. I'm also in need of past Bullsheets for 1984 through 1994 to fill in the list of Past Officers. Any help you can give will be appreciated.

**Steve - W9DX**

## **DX Report by Ken – AB5A**

Hello TDXS'ers. I believe we are in the beginnings of the summer doldrums with regards to DX. The last article was noticeably shorter than the one previous. This article is shorter than both already mentioned. I have been monitoring everyday. The bands are definitely quieter. About the best openings I have noted are on 6M. The Es season is in full tilt. For those of you waiting for HF to open, why not try VHF. There have been several Tropospheric Ducts open between EL29 and Grids in Florida.

**IOTA OC-165 Pulau Satang Besar Island** This IOTA was active at the beginning of May. A couple English blokes and an Italian activated this IOTA references using 9M8PSB as the callsign. QSL via IZ1CRR

**IOTA OC-184 Pulau Muara Besar Island** This IOTA was active during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April. This operation was by the same team that activated OC-165 above. The callsign for this IOTA reference was V8PMB. QSL via G3KHZ

**IOTA OC-135 Cheniu Shan Island** A group of Chinese operators activated this IOTA reference for a few days in early May. Callsign was BI4Q. QSL via BG4RQP.

**XU, Kampuchea** Oleg operated from 7-19 May from this DXCC entity. He was active on many bands using the callsign XU7ARA but I'm sure he made few if any NA contacts on 10/12M. QSL via ES1RA

**9V Singapore** While not a rare entity for NA, it is not often printed on RTTY. 9V1UV has been active on RTTY and reports have been made of QSL's quickly exchanged. QSL via HC

**OJ0 Market Reef** Seppo, OH1VR was active for a little over a week from this DXCC entity. He was active on 6M through 160M. QSL via OH1VR

**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 you're 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 Prez Sez, from page 1.

6 meters in addition to the new warc band. Raffle tickets are the usual 10 bucks for a book of twelve tickets or one buck a ticket. Odds are much better than the lotto!! Madison and I have the tickets and will be at the meeting Thursday week, please bring check or plenty of cash. I also will need salesman to man the booth with me at Ham Com.

Field Day: Memorial day we got plenty of Sun at Dave Topp's beach house at Surfside working on antenna's. We were able to completely assemble and check out the two Cushcraft 40 meter beams, one is just right for CW the other for SSB. Bob is strong feeling for a on the nice quiet CW station located on the beach and I elected to locate the SSB station in the Garage with some fans. The goto station will be on the boardwalk. Bob and Glenn are planning to have wireless computer networking on the scoring and a display in the living room on how each station is doing. My understanding is there will be a Amsat station, novice, and even a WW2 hand cranked Gibson Girl as well. We need several things to complete our station if you are willing to loan up the following gear for field day it would be appreciated.

2 ea. CT17 Comm Boxes

1 ea. Heil Contester boom mic and headset set up for Icom

1 ea. Rotator with control box

Several traps for a A4 Cushcraft tri-bander

A working tribander such as a C-3 or C-3SS Force 12 or equivalent to be used in lieu of our aging TH6.

Spare Generator Set

This year I hope we respect the operators and stay clear of their positions unless it is absolutely necessary. I know the CW folks would appreciate this and I can assure you the SSB group will feel the same once we are underway. In other words no yapping around the operating positions, let them concentrate also I do not want to see a weenie SSB score. If you have any ideas about how the station should be lay-ed out then voice it at the next meeting otherwise it is set in stone. Don't come down the day before and expect to make changes. We will give you the layout at the next meeting. Please make your commitment at the meeting on attending. We are going to have a Blast. We will have a great time and I am looking forward to it. We need as many as possible to assist in breaking down the station after field day.

We want this to be a serious effort

Mike Anderson N5MV

The President