



THE BULLSHEET

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

March
2004

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

March Meeting -- Thursday March 11th Joe Staples, W5ASP, will present “Picking a Contest ... Which, Why & How”

For those of you who don't know Joe, he has forever been an ardent contester, and is currently chairman of the A.R.R.L. Contest Advisory Committee. Guests and visitors welcome! Meeting will be held at the Tracey Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, one block east of Beltway 8, between Richmond and Westpark. (See Map on Page 2)

Meeting before the meeting

TDXS members will meet for eats before this meeting, please join us at Fandango's, in the Carillion Center, 10001 Westheimer, at Briar Park. Guests and visitors welcome!

Happy Birthday !!

Congratulations to long-time TDXS member Frank Montgomery - W5JWM, who will celebrate his 80th birthday on April 1, 2004. Frank has been continuously licensed since 1941, and holds DXCC certificate number 125.

The Prez Sez - de Mike, N5MV

Fellow TDXS'ers,

This past weekend was great, band conditions were not the best but plenty of action. Every contest has surprises. I found the East Coast Aluminum curtain trying at times.

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TDXS Calendar

Upcoming events of interest to TDXSer's

V31AD Belize - March 13-20
N5DD, KC5DJI, AG5TX, KD5YGC
From Placencia, on SSB, Rtty, PSK
Emphasis on 12, 17, 40 & 80 Meters

CQWW WPX Phone March 27-28
CQWW WPX CW May 29-30

Texas DX Society Officers

President	Mike Anderson, N5MV	n5mv@swbell.net	281-373-4902
Vice President	Don Daze, N5DD	n5dd@arrl.net	713-464-7286
Secretary	Ed Gerber, W5GCX	w5gcx@sbcglobal.net	281-351-4170
Treasurer	Dave Topp, W5BXX	w5bxx@aol.com	281-879-9973
Contest Chairman	Dale Martin, KG5U	kg5u@hal-pc.org	281-484-4465
Field Day Chairman	Dave Topp, W5BXX	w5bxx@aol.com	281-879-9973
Repeater Chairman	Glenn Anderson, WB5TUF	wb5tuf@earthlink.net	832-595-2855
DX Chairman	Ken Eckel, AB5A	ab5a@clarc.org	832-722-3780
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>

How to get to The Tracey Gee Center



The Tracey Gee Community Center is located at 3599 Westcenter Drive. It is one block east of Beltway 8, between Richmond and Westpark.

The Prez Sez (from page 1)

Five elements at 130 feet on 20 is formidable for a DX station but is just top layer on most pileups. **I love working the long path thereby torturing the East Coast.** I end with 475 QSO's with 115 countries. This should be OK for the fifth call area 20 meters single OP high power assisted, if that class existed. Some things worked flawless such as the Yaesu 1000MP Field, narrow SSB filters would have be better. The Orion rotator was extremely fast for jumping on spots, rotation speed is programmable, best said "*the rotor hauls butt*". Best countries were found on when sending CQ, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Mongolia etc. I am not too impressed with the Ameritron AL1500, had one crap out Sunday morning. Also the Yaesu voice keyer is junk, no combination of techniques seem to help its poor performance. The best voice keyer is your throat fed with two packages of Halls cough drops, start taking them early is my advise. If you wait until your throat starts hurting its too late. I fueled up with Halls, granola bars and two six packs of "Diet Coke". Best Alarm clock for single band is sleep in the room with your rig. Leave the rig on and lay the headphones on the table with the volume set just so the white noise can be heard across the room. Don't worry about waking! When the band opens to Europe in the morning sound it sounds like a herd of killer bee's attacking. Timer on the coffee maker insures happiness. I found Starbucks Yukon the best.

I vowed to exercise my sense of sportsmanship, which faded away Sunday afternoon, when the DX demon took over. The Writelog program worked flawless and was easy to use, no surprises. I also found the use of a C31 at 85 feet was nice but found no situation where it was an advantage. Nearly all JA contacts reverse beam heading, The high twenty worked fine on the Caribbean usually no more than one to three calls in big pileups. Iceland and Greenland were gained early. Every living organism within the ground plane of the antenna has had its life shortened.

My wife does not get why we do these things. She asks well if you win do we get a reward like a Cruise, trip to Europe or something. My answer was honest and forthright; I just want to have fun and the joy of doing nothing but radio for the weekend. She thought it was a lie and it's all about winning. I am aiming for CQ WW this fall. My brother thinks Heaven is comprised of par five courses and I think it's a station with a outstanding rig, two hole Alpha and a antenna system which will best the East Coast.

Mike Anderson N5MV
The prez

DX Report by Ken – AB5A

Hello TDXS'ers. DX is getting a little livelier this time of year as we approach the Spring Equinox. February was an especially good month for top band. Conditions were quiet with strong openings to EU & SA.

IOTA SA-074 Chimus Island A group of Peruvian operators which included at least one American activated Chimus Island for a few days in middle February. They hailed as OC3I. For those of you in Texas lucky enough to be at the radio at the right time enjoyed a 6M opening to this operation at 20:20utc on 15Feb04. The 6M operator was Jack, N6XQ SMIRK number 5406. QSL via OA4DJW.

ZK3, Tokelau & IOTA OC-048, Tokelau Island Silvano and others activated Tokelau for about 2 weeks. They worked all the traditional modes and many bands. The operation was somewhat sporadic as compared to expectations. They also posted intentions to get on the low bands but never worked 80M or 160M. They made a very short showing on 10M. This is not really a rare entity but on RTTY it is rarer. QSL via I2YSB.

J6, St. Lucia Is & IOTA NA-108, St. Lucia Island Several operators were active on J6 for the contests. They were fairly active on the lowbands and on RTTY. J68GS QSL via KI6T. J6/WA1T via HC. J6DX QSL via N9AG.

ZP. Paraguay Doug, ZP6CW has been active on the lowbands and is frequently spotted on 160M. With the good conditions many operators have been able to snag a new one on 160M. QSL direct.

VK9-L, Lord Howe Is & IOTA OC-004 Lord Howe Island The German Duo, Babs, DL7AFS & Lot, DJ7ZG, were active from this entity. They were active on PHONE and RTTY. QSL via DL7AFS.

VP8-O, South Orkney Is & IOTA AN-008 Laurie Island Henry, LU4DXU activated this rare entity for a special event with the call sign of AY1ZA celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Orkney base. His operation was sporadic because of interference with official base communications. QSL via LU4DXU.

XF5, Revilla Gigedo & IOTA NA-030 Socorro Island A team of Mexican operators hailing with the call sign XF4IH are activating this entity as I write. They are active on all bands and all modes including PSK31. They as yet have not been heard on 160M or 6M. They also intend to operate Satellite and SSTV. They have a Ten-Ten International member on the team: Josey, XE1J with 1010# 6774. He was active on 4March04. The operation will continue until about the 20th of March 2004. QSL via XE1IH

5R, Madagascar & IOTA AF-013 Madagascar Island Albert, 5R8GZ is quite active on the bands but is mentioned here because he has been working NA on 40M CW with the excellent lowband conditions. QSL via G3GWH

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.