



THE BULLSHEET

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

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

The Prez Sez - de Mike, N5MV

Fellow TDXS members,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve a President of the Society for the 2004 term. Getting everyone fired up at the near bottom of cycle 23 will be a challenge. Fortunately we have a fine VP in Don Daze and others who will contribute to make meetings interesting this year. I will be calling a board meeting soon for advanced planning and sharing of ideas to grow our membership and improve meeting content. Some of our members will become silent keys in the not so distant future and some have already passed. Their contribution and friendship will be remembered. We need to leave a legacy and our proud tradition to the future TDXS'ers. We have to draw new members without lowering our standards. New members and missionary work needs to happen this year. Be thinking of prospective members and encourage those candidates to attend. The website needs some overall and improvements as well. The agenda for the next two meetings has been set. Our meeting location for the time being will be the Tracy Gee Community Center. I will be working with the board to analyze the membership by Zip and determine if our current meeting location is centrally located.

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TDXS Calendar

Upcoming events of interest to TDXSer's

February Meeting - Thursday, February 19, 7:00 pm, Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive. **(This date is changed from our standard meeting night due to a scheduling conflict at Tracy Gee.)** Buzz, N5UR, will speak about his recent expedition to Taongi Atoll (OC263) in the Marshall Islands group.

Belize trip - March 13 - 20. N5DD, KC5DJI, AG5TX, and KD5YCG will be operating from Palcencia Lagoon, Belize. Keep an eye on <http://www.dxpileup.net> for late breaking developments.

Monthly Meeting Announcement

January Meeting - This month's meeting will be the Annual Winter Dinner. Original plans were to have the dinner on Sat. Jan. 31st., however it may be rescheduled to Feb. 7th. Stay tuned to the TDXS Reflector and the repeater for latest news. Some details on Page 3.

Don, N5DD

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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>

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I am encouraged with the news that George DeMontrond has plans to revive Hempstead. When aluminum goes up everyone begins to get the fever, its contagious. I remember the eighties when antenna parties were frequent and so were daily conversations on the repeater regarding improving stations. When I joined TDXS it was a contest club made up of DX'ers. In actuality it was about 60/40 Contesters and DX'ers, nothing wrong with that picture.

I would like to thank Madison for his encouragement and the staff for the fine work last year and organizing the banquet. Remember January is the time to pay dues.

Thanks,
Mike N5MV

The Winter Dinner Beckons!

de Madison W5MJ

Every year about this time, it's out with the old and in with the new. The Winter Dinner [where you get to impress your significant other with how witty and charming your radio friends are instead of those one-dimensional slugs with whom you work or play golf during the non-radio time, so please wear shoes] is our fine annual sit-down dinner and gathering, and will be hosted by TDXS and its new president, Mike Anderson, and VP, Don Daze. As in years past, TDXS will be picking up about half the tab, so the cost will be \$30 per head for those in attendance. For those who count, there probably will be about 45 souls in attendance.

In keeping with such affairs of state, the exact location of the TDXS Annual Winter Dinner is being kept a secret until all arrangements are finalized. But once we know, we will pass it on to you via the Reflector. The gathering will be on **Saturday, January 31, 2004** [probably at Churrasco's on Westheimer]. The cash bar will open at 6:00 pm and dinner will be on the table at 7:00 pm. Frosty and I are trying to put it all together for our last hurrah, but are still working on the menu. It seems that the cost of such a gathering is badly outstripping inflation, but we will be sure you will be impressed with the result. **(Editor's note: Stay tuned to the reflector for final Winter Dinner details, the date may change.)**

Anyway, put the date on your calendar, call Frosty at (281)437-1978 with the number attending, and take your suit to the cleaners so it will be presentable. Great door prizes are being assembled [Thanks, RP, but we won't be needing the remains of your antenna which was zapped], great friends are making preparations for the gathering, and our spouses are looking forward to having us behave ourselves for once. Please make a reservation as early as you can to help out the committee plan this fine affair!

A Parting Shot

Well, it's been a good year for me and for TDXS in general, with many more assorted ups than downs. On the plus, I was able to get to Mexico and Lesotho for some radio, went to Dayton for the first time ever, and I worked some of the semi-rare ones that wandered across the bands. For TDXS, we had a Field Day again, there was better attendance at the meetings, we had some very interesting programs, we brought in a new member or two, got to see some old faces, and, after a loooooonnnnnng absence, having the UHF repeater and drive time conversation is wonderful! Thanks especially to Glenn Anderson WB5TUF for the good work there. Our members traveled the world, literally, a number time times, to give Qs to The Deserving at their own expense. We did well in contests yet again. Life is good.

And there were a few minuses, though not many. The Mexican fiasco will keep us away from there for the foreseeable future [sorry we won't be seeing Enrique and the Radio Ranch for contests], and the spots are headed down like a piano tossed out the 10th story window. Too bad some of the old hands are not able to make the meetings or participate like they used to, but, as one of our number stated to me recently, "I am just not excited about radio as I once was." I suppose that happens, but it hasn't happened to me yet. I am still thrilled about the magic of having the EMF of a power source create a recognizable signal on the other end as I was when I acquired my first crystal set for Christmas in 1946.

Thanks to each of you for letting me be on the front lines of TDXS in 2003. I have always considered it to be an honor to be associated with all of TDXS, and to have the opportunity to be the spokesman for such an august organization is something for which I am most grateful. There isn't a one of you from whom I have not learned much more than a little about contesting, DXing, and friendship. Thanks very much.

CU in the pileups

de Madison, W5MJ