



THE BULLSHEET

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

APRIL
2005

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

April Meeting Announcement, Thursday April 14 Operating in Greece, by Jim N4AL



Jim Boockholdt N4AL was first licensed in 1967 and joined TXDS in 2004. He is retired and returned to the Houston area after a 30 year career as an accounting professor, first at the University of Houston and more recently at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. He is on the DXCC Honor Roll with 338 entities confirmed. He and his XYL regularly travel to Greece where he holds the callsign SVØJB. At the April meeting, Jim will discuss his experiences pursuing DXCC from two different locations simultaneously.

See you at the Tracy Gee Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, at 7:00 PM.

There will also be a short discussion of our HamCom plans, and our Field Day options and plans.

This promises to be an interesting meeting!

Dinner before the meeting

Date: Thursday, April 14

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: Luther's Barbeque

Address: 9797 Westheimer, at S. Gessner

Texas DX Society Officers

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
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| Vice President | | | |
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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/tdxs-list>

Field Day Proposal from K5RC

This is a proposal for consideration by TDXS for a reunion Field Day 2005 in Virginia City NV.

1. Operate class 4E or 5E - A gentleman's FD (Class E - Home stations - Emergency power: Same as Class D, but using emergency power for transmitters and receivers. Class E may work any class station).
2. I have six towers. There is a place near each for RV's and tents. I can supply equipment for at least 3 stations. If we involve the local testers, I can likely equip the whole FD. There are two existing operating positions in the shack.
3. VHF Equipment, antennas, tents and generators will be needed. Again, the locals could be tapped. I'll rent at least one generator. K6SE has volunteered to tow a 4 KW generator up here from Palmdale.
4. We will host a BBQ on Sunday afternoon and arrange for some casino-related events.
5. For non-campers, there are motels in Virginia City (5 miles) and major hotels in Reno (15 miles). Sleeping under the stars is a viable option. Temps during the day should be 75-80 and 50-60 at night.
6. We can coordinate pickup/drop-off service for those who will fly in. We are 20 min from the Reno (RNO) airport.

I can supply all the local logistics. There would need to be a logistics coordinator in TX who would round up the willing RV owners and car poolers and any needed equipment, tents, etc. Midge and I drove to Houston over Christmas in 2 days with my mom in the car. Multi-drivers could do it nonstop in about 20 hours.

Please give me a go/no-go by the end of April.

Tom Taormina, K5RC
Contesting from the Comstock
W7RN - K7RC

The Prez Sez, de Don N5DD

There is a lot going on right now in TDXS, and more in the near future, to prepare for the two big events in June: HamCom and Field Day.

Contesting. 11 TDXSers and friends accepted the challenge to enter, and make over 100 QSOs, in the WPX SSB contest. This was no small feat considering the band conditions at this point in the solar cycle. We totaled just over 2.6 million points for the club competition. When CQ publishes the final scores we will have to see where we rank.

If anyone else was on during the contest, no matter how many contacts you made, please send your score summary to Joe, w5asp@juno.com, and your logs to ssb@cqwpx.com.

Meetings. We all enjoyed last month's talk about the Falklands Islands DXpedition. We were fortunate to have all four operators W5PF, WF5W, W5MJ, and NM5G present and helping with the presentation. This month Jim, N4AL, will be speaking to us about operating from Greece while pursuing DXCC from two different locations. Maybe he also has some insight about SV/A? On May 12, Russell Dudley, KW5O, will be speaking to us, topic to be determined, but will include his operations from the middle east and his work for Alinco. Our July meeting will be moved to July 26 (Tue) to accommodate the schedule of Scott Robbins, N4PA, from TenTec.

We are still looking for potential programs on Software Defined Radio, and Rover Contesting. If you have any suggestions please let me know.

Win an FT-857d! The FT-857d is in hand, the convention table has been reserved, and the tickets are in the process of being printed. Now we need you to support TDXS by purchasing raffle tickets. TDXS dues has remained unchanged since the 70's, and the raffle ticket sale is our only fundraiser. Raffle tickets are priced at \$1 apiece, or members can get the special price of 12 for \$10.

Arlington HamCom. The plan this year is to have two people in the booth at all times, and schedule two shifts of 3 to 4 hours each day. To make this work we need four volunteers each day. Please email me to let me know if you can help, and your preference for shifts. Also, the Lone Star DX Association is planning another great DX luncheon, at HamCom. This year VU2RBI will be the guest speaker, speaking about Andaman and the tsunami..

Field Day. Field Day is coming up June 24 & 25. We have received a number of serious, and some not-so-serious, offers for Field Day operation sites.

The options are:

- 1) K5NA's 50 acres near Austin. With ham shack, antennas, and electricity available, room to camp and fish, motels and restaurants nearby. Class tbd, could be A, D, or E, with 1, 2, 3, or however many xmiters.
- 2) Southern Illinois, with N5RP. Not sure what class, but probably 3C from the back of an old VW bus.

(Continued on next page...)

3) K5RC's ten acres, in Virginia City, NV, with plenty of room for camping. No bugs, no snakes, no humidity, no rain. K5RC can supply several stations and antennas. Camping onsite or motels nearby. Class 4E or 5E. Probably could be adapted to class A with fewer xmitters. (For more details on this option, see page 2, ed.)

4) W5BXX's beach house and motor-home in Surfside. Sure to have bugs and humidity, will try to keep rain and power-line noise at bay. Class 2A or 3A.

5) If none of the above are to our liking, we can always develop more choices. Any other suggestions?

Be sure and review the specific offers made by K5NA and K5RC on the TDXS list archive. We will be discussing each option and taking a vote at the April 14 meeting. If you will not be present at the meeting, please let me know your preference ahead of time.

A review of our Field Day antenna arsenal shows that several of our beams are exhibiting high SWR. Madison has taken home one of the 40 meter yagis, taken it apart, cleaned it up, replaced a few parts, put it back together, tuned it up, marked the settings, and partially disassembled it for storage or transport. The club appreciates his efforts on this. Now we need a few volunteers to do the same with some of our other antennas. We have a HyGain TH-6 and an Cushcraft A4 (w/ 40 m kit), that need the same type of work. Any volunteers?

ARRL Membership. The ARRL is offering affiliated clubs, like TDXS, an opportunity to earn a few dollars. If you renew (or sign up for new) your ARRL membership through TDXS, our treasury gets \$2.00. See Bill, K5WAF, for more details. I encourage all TDXSers to maintain their ARRL membership.

TDXS Roster. Laurent, W0MM, has completed the first round of updates to the TDXS roster. If any of your contact info needs updating, please send them to Laurent.

Please help out by showing a big TDXS participation for both June events!

73,
Don, N5DD

March Attendance de Laurent, W0MM

Here is the list of operators for the last meeting in March:

KG5U, N5KTN, N5DD, W5MJ, NN5O, K5WAF, N4AL, W5PF, WF5W, W5EET, W5GCX, W5ASP, W9DX, W5JWM, NE5B, N5MT, WD5KCX, N5ET, NM5G, KM5DG and W0MM.

A total of 21 attendees.

A note of thanks from a happy Plaque Winner, Ken, K5KA



Gents,

Today I received a very nice plaque for the M/2 class of the August 2004 NAQP CW. I wanted to pass along my thanks to your group for the continued sponsorship.

Best of DX to you all !!

73, Ken K5KA

For Sale, by Tom Ashworth, N5EA

I have a TS930S that just came back from the factory with a new display and tweaking and is now surplus as WX5S talked me into a new FT1000MP MK-V. The TS930 is still in the box and as far as I know, works fine. Price is \$400.

In addition, I have a new magnifying lamp that was a Xmas present that I can not use as I have no room for the base. It is sort of in the box. Meaning I haven't used it but can't get it back into the box. Price is \$30

If interested contact Tom at [jashworth <at> houston.rr.com](mailto:jashworth@houston.rr.com)

DXpedition places available, by Frosty, K5LBU

For the members of TDXS here is what I will offer for this July if we can get 6-8 guys to go. Each one will have their own 3DA0 call or might get 3DA5 or such. Set up 2 complete stations one for CW and one for SSB. We have on site 2 towers on trailers which will go up to 15 or 20 meters with A4 beams with the 40 meter kit. 160-80-40 meter vertical. Rigs: one FT1000 with amp, one Icom765 with amp. I think there is room for several beverge antennas. Will have vertical for 30 meters, also 6 meters. 3 meals a day. All transport from airport in JoBurg and back Would like to do the IARU contest so that means arriving no later than the morning of the 8th of July. For 10 days or if anyone doesnot want to do 10 days they can do only 5 days. The cost plus air would be \$150.00 per day per person.

Now does anyone want to join and make it a TDXS DXpedition?

Contesting de Joe W5ASP

The weekend of the WPX Phone contest showed that the high bands are still hangin' in there. While 10 Meters wasn't overflowing with activity it did provide some interesting results for the dedicated. Chuck, W5PR turned in an outstanding score in keeping with his past performances. You tell me where he found over 800 Qs on a band that was ignored by most. On the longer waves Don, N5DD did a very respectable job on 80 Meters. Apparently Amy, KC5DJI was willing to share their station long enough for him to collect a bunch of low band prefixes. And unless my memory fails me, this was a new "high" contest score for Steve, W9DX. Congratulations to all of those who joined the fun, and turned in their scores for TDXS.

I've listed the scores as I received them. You'll notice a couple of "gaps" where not all the relevant numbers came through. But what matters most is our total club score which turned out to be a very respectable 2.8 M points. It was a club effort and we done good guys ... thanks ! While I wish that more of the members had been able to get on board, it was a good start. And now comes the classic question, "Where do we go next ?" To my mind the two best bets are the IARU contest in mid-July and the NA QSO Party in August. I'll be listening for suggestions and comments either at the meetings or via email.

TDXS 2005 CQ WPX PHONE SCORES

| CALL | NAME | CATEGORY | QSOs | MULT | SCORE |
|--------|---------|-------------------|------|------|---------|
| W5PR | Chuck | SO/SB 10M HP | 805 | 356 | 487,720 |
| N5DD | Don | SO/SB 80M HP | 220 | 177 | 110,271 |
| KC5DJI | Amy | SO/AB @ HP | 101 | 86 | 13,760 |
| WD5KCX | Lance | SO/AB LP | 284 | 199 | 123,615 |
| W0MM | Laurent | LP TB-WIRES | 321 | 219 | 155,271 |
| WB5TUF | Glenn | | 206 | 142 | 68,160 |
| N5LZ | Don | SO/AB HP | 337 | 222 | 124,098 |
| W9DX | Steve | SO/AB LP/TB-Wires | 662 | 396 | 512,820 |
| W5PF | Paul | SO/AB HP | 328 | 255 | 200,940 |
| K5UO | Mike | SO/AB HP (A) | 400 | 281 | 306,009 |
| NQ5K | Joe | SO/SB 15M HP | 925 | 458 | 688,374 |

TOTAL 2,791,038

A pretty good score considering ... thanks to everyone who helped out.

PLEASE send your score in to CQ ... we want to see TDXS in the listings.

DXpedition Chair Report for April de Jim, nn5o

Well, if you don't like OX, OY or TF or EI or ZD7 or ZD8, consider PY0S or PY0F, on the equator.

Here is what I have found re these Brazilian controlled country entities. You rarely hear them in contests, so you will be RARE if you can pull off the DXpedition.

http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildworld/profiles/terrestrial/nt/nt1318_full.html

<http://honeymooney.com/brazil/portugal.htm>

PY0F Fernando looks MUCH more friendly and seeks tourists and has facilities. The Rocks (PY0S) look a lot like a bigger version of Kingman Reef and Scarborough Reef.

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=pt&u=http://www.noronha.pe.gov.br/&prev=/search%3Fq%3DFernando%2Bde%2BNoronha%26hl%3Den%26lr%3D%26client%3Dfirefox-a%26rls%3Dorg.mozilla:en-US:official>

Air service to Brazil is simple from Houston, and (if you are interested) you can work out the flight to Fernando using info on the website above.

CONCLUSION:

I have tried to suggest a path to operation to some of the least contest used multiplier QTHs in the Atlantic Region. Of course, there are lots of Caribbean islands with houses and stations to rent, but you do not need that info from me—lots of them advertise in QST and elsewhere!

If I have time, I will do an analysis of the Pacific rarities in a few months. The bottom line is that you need to be creative. Pick a country, line up licensing, contact local hams and begin to pack your suitcase station. It has worked for me over many vacations of fun.

Here is an excellent go to site. My goal is just like Nike, "Just DO it!" Unfortunately, the vast majority of hams are very cheap. I want to suggest simple but super DXpeditions which do not cost much. There are many possibilities on this site.

http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/DX_Peditions/

73, Jim, nn5o